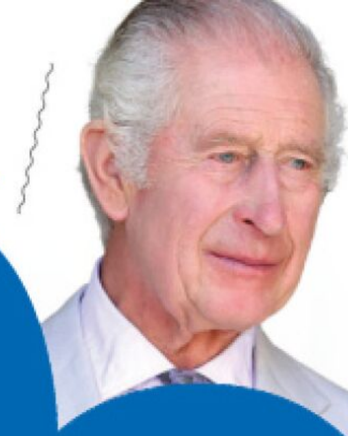
LOVE TRIANGLE TURNED DEADLY p.52



The King's Cancer Crisis

William Steps Up & Harry Rushes to Charles' Side

Céline Dion

Inside Her Inspiring Recovery & Emotional Grammys Return

People

the People Interview

Robert De Niro

Fame, Family & the Joy of Fatherhood

The 80-year-old acting legend opens up about life as a dad of seven, Oscar buzz for *Killers of the Flower Moon* and his future: 'I'm ready to take whatever life gives me'

February 19, 2024

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chatter

'I think the timer has started . . . I don't know when exactly, but it's around the corner'

– KEKE PALMER, on eventually retiring from acting, to *Teen Vogue*

'Well, they thought I was pretending to be Teri Hatcher'

– TERI HATCHER, on why she was kicked off the dating app Hinge, on *Getting Grilled With Curtis Stone*

'My parents were running around nude in the house. We would go to [nudist] beaches. We had a camper, and we'd go to places where everyone is nude'

– HEIDI KLUM, on feeling comfortable naked, on *Call Her Daddy*

'I once told him . . . Well, actually I wrote him a letter, and I said, "People love *John Wick* because Charon loves *John Wick*"'

– KEANU REEVES, remembering his late *John Wick* costar Lance Reddick, to *People*

'Honestly it's "Tim-oh-teh," but I would not oblige you to say it like that—and it can be Timothy or Timmy or Doug or Allen'

– TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET, on the pronunciation of his name, on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*

'If it was just dancing and cats, I'd be all for it'

– JODIE FOSTER, revealing what would get her to use social media, to *People*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; WILLY SANJUAN/INVISION/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; MONICA SCHIPPER/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN SALANGSANG/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHAD SALVADOR/SHUTTERSTOCK; MEDIAPUNCH/SHUTTERSTOCK

5 Things We're Talking About *this week!*

After the altercation, David told Seth Meyers 'I would do it again!'

1

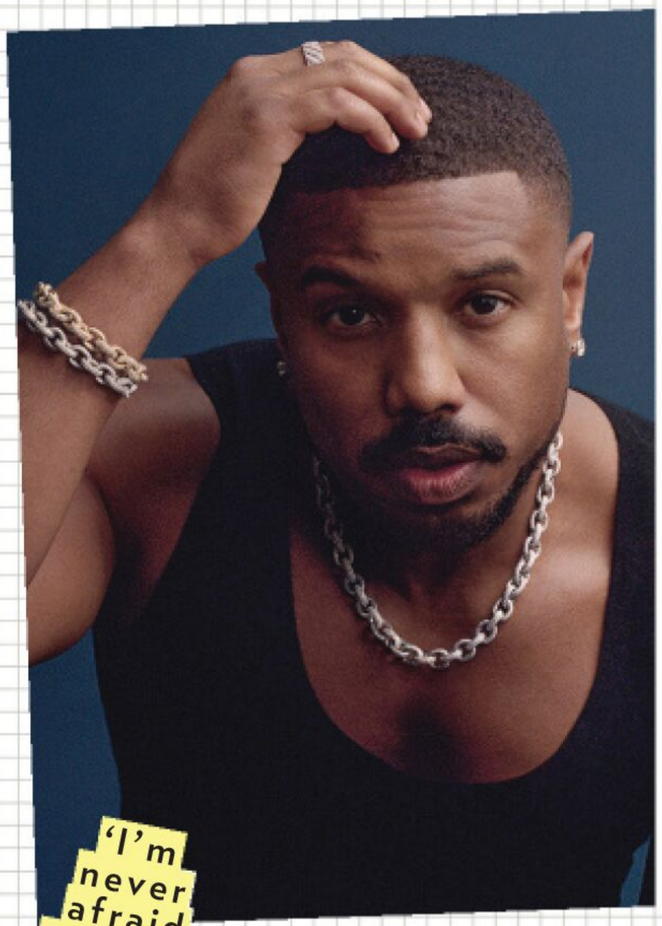
An Elmo and Larry David face-off

While appearing on the *Today* show, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*'s famous curmudgeon attacked the *Sesame Street* Muppet. David later said he was "really sorry." Elmo accepted the apology.

2

A breakfast mash-up

Victor Allen's Coffee is partnering with General Mills to transform a childhood cereal staple into a grown-up beverage. Cinnamon Toast Crunch iced coffee is now available at Sam's Club.



'I'm never afraid to make a statement,' Jordan says

3

Michael B. Jordan's new campaign

The *Creed* star is the latest global ambassador for David Yurman—and the face of the brand's first-ever men's High Jewelry collection, "The Vault." It certainly suits the 2020 Sexiest Man Alive.

4

One last hurrah

Brad Pitt and Quentin Tarantino are teaming up for the third time. Pitt—who starred in *Inglorious Bastards* in 2009 and *Once Upon a Time… in Hollywood* in 2019—is planning to appear in what Tarantino says will be his final film, *The Movie Critic*.

5

Kevin and Kyra's return

Longtime married couple Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick will appear in the movie *Connescence*, their first film together in 20 years.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: TRILLIANT FOOD & NUTRITION; ALAMY; TYLER MITCHELL; WEISS EUBANKS/NBCUNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES; TODD WILLIAMSON/NBC/GETTY IMAGES; MATT WINKELMEYER/WIREIMAGE; CRAIG BARRITT/GETTY IMAGES

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February 19, 2024

People contents

Vol. 101 / No. 7

40 King Charles
The monarch has cancer and is leaning on his family for support.

44 How We Found Forever
Couples share their great love stories.

11 Grammys Glam!
See the looks from music's biggest night.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: MICHAEL SCHWARTZ; MATT BARON/BEI/SHUTTERSTOCK; LIONEL HAHN/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY AMANDA SMITH; CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

On the Cover

34
Robert De Niro

40
King Charles III

14
Céline Dion

52
Love Triangle Turned Deadly

This Week

14
Scoop
Céline Dion makes a rare public appearance at the Grammys, Elisabeth Moss's pregnancy joy, the latest in Cher's fight for conservatorship of her son, and more news

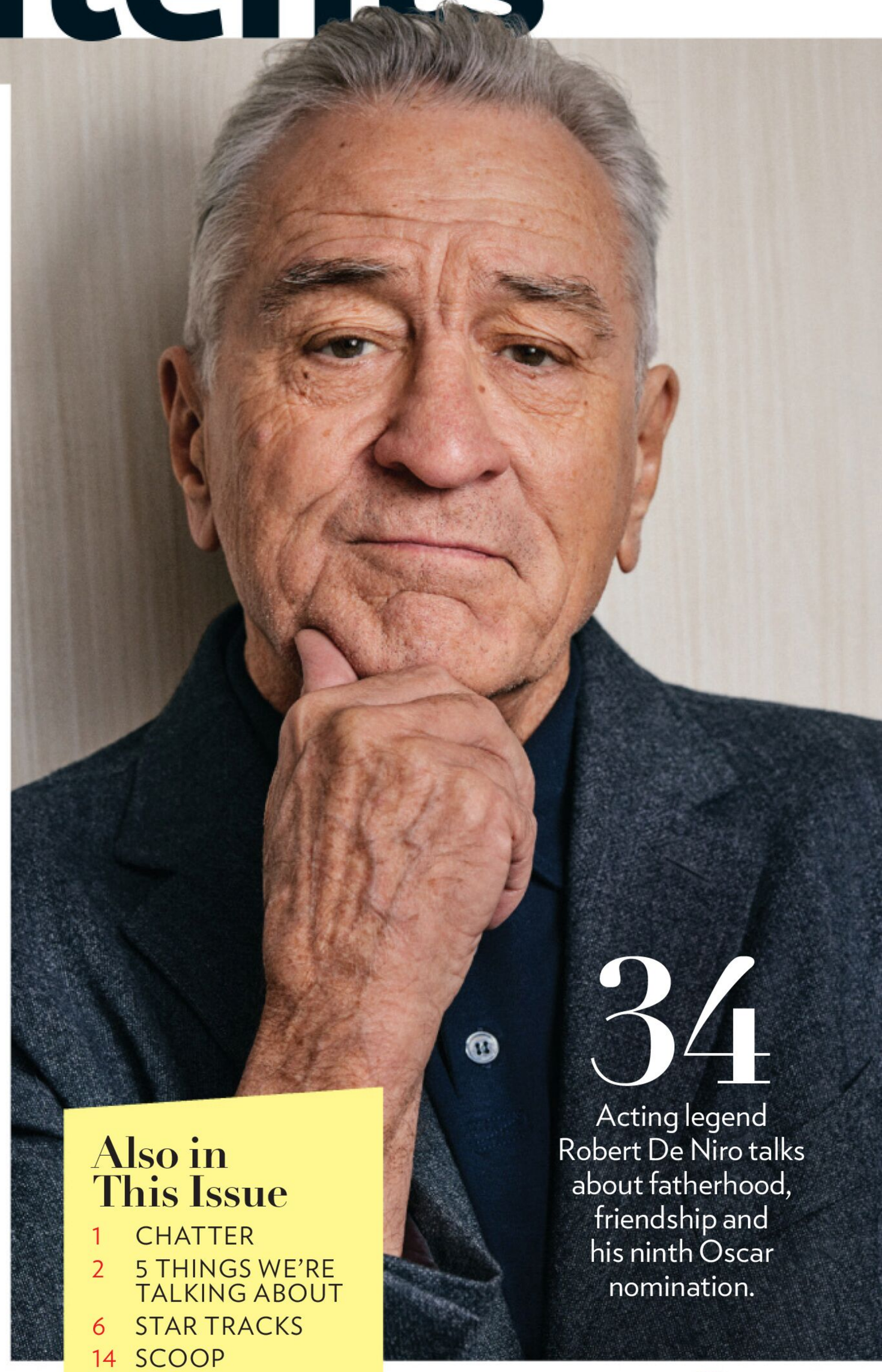
48
Carl Weathers
The actor, best known for his roles in the *Rocky* franchise, *Predator* and *Happy Gilmore*, dies at age 76

50
Justin Hartley
The *This Is Us* star is relishing the small things in life as he kicks off his new CBS action series *Tracker*

52
Deadly Love Triangle
A woman Dave Kroupa met online turned out to be a lover, stalker—and killer

56
Billy Dee Williams
The *Star Wars* alum looks back on an eventful life full of romance onscreen and off

60
Super Bowl LVIII
Our guide to the big game, from the star players and their love stories to celeb fans and more



34
Acting legend Robert De Niro talks about fatherhood, friendship and his ninth Oscar nomination.

Also in This Issue

1 CHATTER
2 5 THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
6 STAR TRACKS
14 SCOOP
22 PASSAGES
25 SMILE
27 PEOPLE PICKS
70 TRAVEL
74 BEAUTY
76 FOOD
78 PUZZLER
79 SECOND LOOK
80 ONE LAST THING

People × People EN ESPAÑOL

With the support of P&G, we partnered with our sister brand *People en Español* to celebrate some of the biggest Hispanic stars and their enduring love stories. Turn to page 63 for more.

ON THE COVER (De Niro) Photograph by Michael Schwartz. Prop stylist: Jacob Burstein/MHS Artists; hair & makeup: Lynda Eichner using Trees and Flowers® for skin. (King Charles) Photograph by Andrew Milligan/Getty Images. Insets, (Prince Harry) Max Mumby/Indigo/Getty Images; (Prince William) Andrew Matthews/Getty Images. (King Charles) Chris Jackson/Getty Images; (Dion) Kevin Mazur/Getty Images

Miley Cyrus—who channeled Tina Turner during her triumphant performance of "Flowers"—took home her first two Grammy awards. "I don't think I forgot anyone, but I might have forgotten underwear!" she quipped during her Record of the Year acceptance speech.

GRAMMY AWARDS

Women Rock Music's Biggest Night

SEASONED VETS AND RISING STARS STOLE THE SHOW AT THE 66TH ANNUAL AWARDS ON FEB. 4 IN L.A.

Taylor Swift—who announced her upcoming album *The Tortured Poets Department* and made history with her fourth Album of the Year win—held court, sitting front and center with (from left) fellow Album of the Year contenders Lana Del Rey and Phoebe Bridgers and Producer of the Year, Non-Classical winner Jack Antonoff.

After winning Best Folk Album earlier in the day, Joni Mitchell hit the stage for her debut Grammys performance, singing a moving rendition of her classic hit "Both Sides Now."

The top-nominated artist of the evening, SZA won three of the nine awards she was up for. "I'm not an attractive crier," she joked in an emotional speech while accepting Best R&B Song for "Snooze."

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; MONICA SCHIPPER/GETTY IMAGES; SONJA FLEMMING/CBS; CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

Billie Eilish, who wore a Barbie-inspired ensemble, and her brother Finneas took the stage to perform their *Barbie* soundtrack standout "What Was I Made For?" The ballad earned them two Grammys, including Song of the Year.

FAMILIES AT THE GRAMMYS

Jay-Z brought daughter Blue Ivy, 12, onstage when he accepted the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award. "I used to say it was a sippy cup for Blue," he said of the gramophone trophies, "but Blue's grown up now, and she has her own Grammys."

Billy Joel—who performed his new song "Turn the Lights Back On"—attended the show with wife Alexis Roderick and daughters Remy Anne, 6 (left), and Della Rose, 8.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SONJA FLEMMING/CBS; STEWART COOK/CBS; JC OLIVERA/WIREIMAGE

CUTE COUPLES

John Legend posed with wife **Chrissy Teigen,** who wore a little black Alexandre Vauthier dress with a pink ruffle.

Paris Hilton and husband **Carter Reum** enjoyed a parents' night out after welcoming their second child in January.

Best Americana Performance winner **Brandi Carlile** (right) and wife **Catherine Shepard** held hands ahead of the show.

Album of the Year nominee Jon Batiste planted a sweet kiss on his wife, Suleika Jaouad, who missed his 2022 Grammys sweep because of her cancer treatment at the time.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STEFANIE KEENAN/GETTY IMAGES; LESTER COHEN/GETTY IMAGES; GILBERT FLORES/GETTY IMAGES; STEWART COOK/CBS/GETTY IMAGES

IT'S PARTY TIME!

Bruce Springsteen stepped out to honor his fellow Jersey boy **Jon Bon Jovi** at the MusiCares Person of the Year event on Feb. 2.

Jessica Simpson and **Ashlee Simpson Ross** posed at Steven Tyler's Jam for Janie viewing party.

Best New Artist winner **Victoria Monét** performed at Spotify's Best New Artist party on Feb. 1.

Paris Jackson rocked a leopard-print jacket at the Universal Music Group afterparty.

Josh Groban and girlfriend **Natalie McQueen** enjoyed a date night at Warner Music Group's pre-party on Feb. 1.

Country stars **Jelly Roll** and **Lainey Wilson** sang their nominated hit duet "Save Me" at Clive Davis's annual pre-Grammy gala on Feb. 3.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES; CATHERINE POWELL/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL TULLBERG/FILMMAGIC; FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; LESTER COHEN/GETTY IMAGES

OLIVIA RODRIGO

Fun fact: The nominee's vintage Versace gown originally debuted in 1995, which makes it eight years older than her! Bulgari rubies and diamonds completed the look.

MILEY CYRUS

Before making multiple outfit changes, the Record of the Year winner kicked off the night in a Maison Margiela Artisanal dress featuring 14,000 safety pins and antique beads.

TAYLOR SWIFT

Swifties couldn't wait to decode the Album of the Year winner's look, from her custom Schiaparelli Haute Couture gown and gloves to her Lorraine Schwartz watch choker.

JANELLE MONÁE

The double nominee said she felt "classic, timeless, futuristic" in her custom Giorgio Armani Privé embellished gown, which she described as "liquid-y blackness."

DUA LIPA

"I feel very Joan of Arc," the nominee and performer said of her custom Courrèges gunmetal dress with hip cutouts, which she topped off with a Tiffany & Co. necklace.

FROM LEFT: AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMMAGIC; FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMMAGIC; MATT BARON/BEI/SHUTTERSTOCK; STEWART COOK/GETTY IMAGES

A STARRY SELFIE

Los Angeles, Feb. 3

Erika Alexander (left) shared a smiley moment with her former *Living Single* costar Queen Latifah (center) and her *American Fiction* costar Tracee Ellis Ross at the Fifteen Percent Pledge Gala, where Ross received the Trailblazer Award.

MAKING NEW MUSIC

Los Angeles, Feb. 1

American Idol alum Jordin Sparks shared that her upcoming album will have country, R&B and "a little bit" of gospel influences at *People*, the Recording Academy and Sephora's Women in the Mix pre-Grammy event.

SURFER BOY

Sydney, Feb. 3

Following a trip to snowy Japan, Chris Hemsworth returned home to Australia to catch some waves on a summer day with his older brother Luke (not pictured).

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: EMMA MCINTYRE/GETTY IMAGES; JOJO KORSH/BFA.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK; KHAPBM/BACKGRID; FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; MEGA; WILL HEATH/NBC/GETTY IMAGES

FAMILY SUPPORT

Los Angeles, Feb. 3

Cruz Beckham (left), Nicola Peltz Beckham (second from left), Victoria Beckham and Brooklyn Peltz Beckham huddled up at the premiere of Nicola's directorial debut *Lola,* which she also stars in and wrote.

LIVE FROM NEW YORK!

New York City, Feb. 3

Jennifer Lopez appeared on *Saturday Night Live* as a musical guest for the fourth time to perform her recent single "Can't Get Enough" and the title track from her upcoming album *This Is Me… Now,* out Feb. 16.

ONE CUTE PUP

France, Feb. 3

Amal and George Clooney—and a furry friend!—celebrated her 46th birthday with a stroll in the sun.

Grammys Goddess
Designer Law Roach declared himself "unretired" to style Dion (onstage with son René-Charles) for the big night.

Céline Dion Back in the Spotlight!

By RACHEL DESANTIS

On a night where women reigned supreme at the Grammys, there was one whose star shined exceptionally bright: Céline Dion.

The acclaimed singer, 55, made a surprise appearance at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 4 to present the trophy for Album of the Year, marking her first major public outing since she was diagnosed with the rare neurological disorder stiff-person syndrome in 2022. As she walked out onstage holding her 23-year-old son René-Charles Angélil's arm, she received a standing ovation from the star-studded crowd. "Thank you all, I love you right back," Dion told the audience. "When I say that I'm happy to be here, I really mean it from my heart."

After announcing that Taylor Swift, 34, had won the night's final prize (one she herself won in 1997), Dion was photographed sharing a hug backstage with the singer, who made history as the first artist to win

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES

The Power of Love Dion shared a hug with Swift backstage after announcing that she'd won the Grammy for Album of the Year.

Album of the Year four times. And the memorable backstage run-ins didn't end there. "Everybody was stopping Céline," says a source. "She had a beautiful moment with Oprah Winfrey. She and Stevie Wonder sang together—they were just riffing. Victoria Monét stopped her. It was just such a nice night for her, and everyone was so gracious."

Three months prior to the high-profile outing, the Canadian star made her first appearance at a public event in three and a half years. On Oct. 30 she and her sons (with her late husband, René Angélil) René-Charles and 13-year-old twins Nelson and Eddy stepped out in Las Vegas to cheer on her hometown ice hockey team the Montreal Canadiens during their game against the Vegas Golden Knights. "She's doing well, and the hope is that she can continue to do more and ease back in," says the source. "[Her illness] is incurable, but she's honestly doing well and looks incredible."

> 'SHE'S DOING WELL, AND THE HOPE IS THAT SHE CAN CONTINUE TO DO MORE AND EASE BACK IN'
> —A SOURCE

Determined to continue moving forward despite her disorder, which affects the central nervous system, Dion remains focused on the future while acknowledging a career filled with achievements. In January she announced the documentary *I Am: Céline Dion,* which will peel back the curtain on her legendary career, as well as her new normal as she navigates her diagnosis. According to the source, Dion is also eyeing a return to music. "She has her documentary coming out, and fans will see everything she went through," the insider says. "She hopes to get back into the music side of things more as well." For now, though, the source says, "She's taking things step by step."

—REPORTING BY MELODY CHIU

Dion with sons (from left) Eddy, René-Charles and Nelson at the Canadiens ice hockey game in Las Vegas in October.

TRACY CHAPMAN

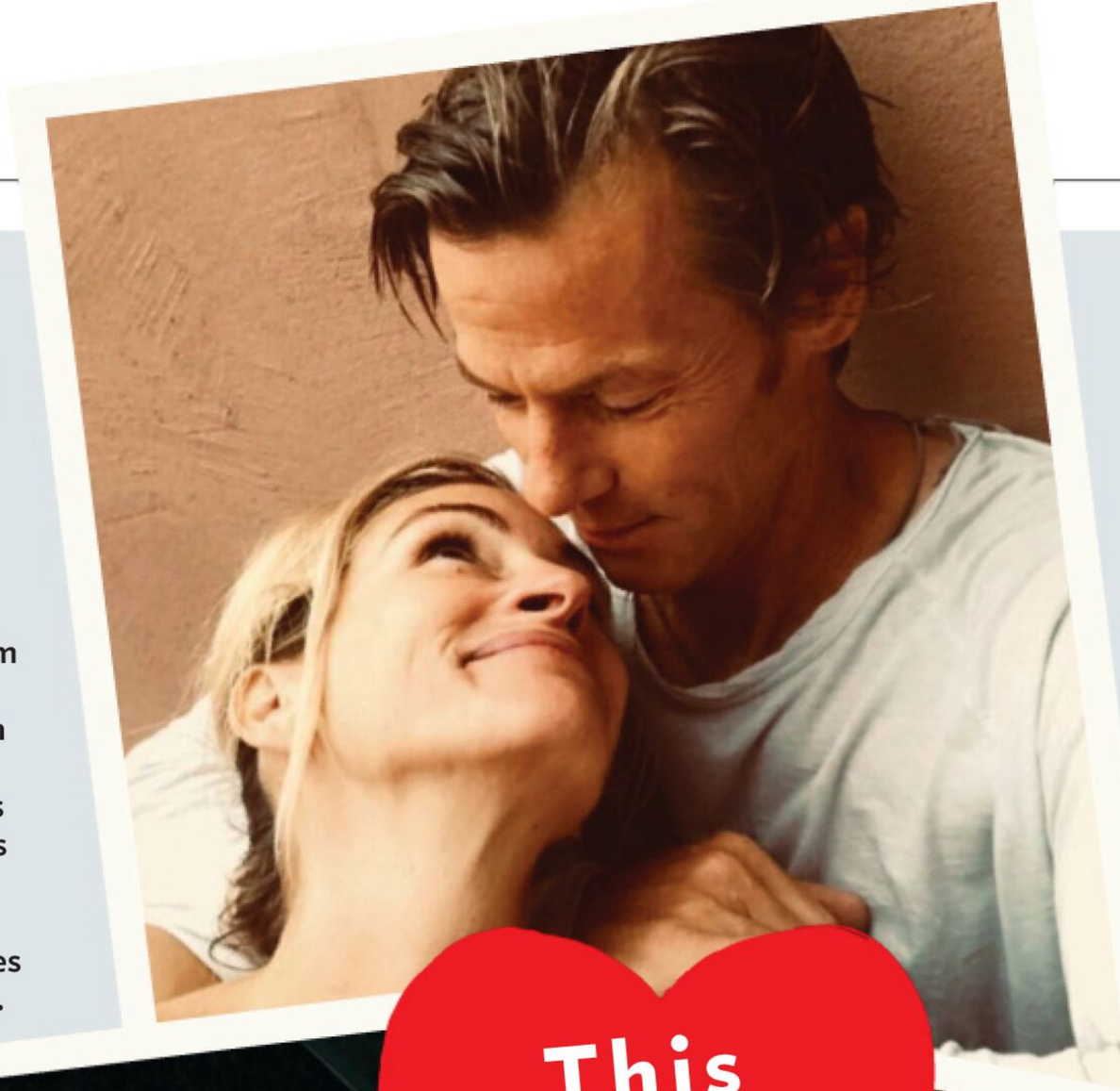
Her Big Return to the Grammys

At the Grammy Awards on Feb. 4 Tracy Chapman made her first live TV performance in four years as she sang a stirring rendition of her 1988 hit "Fast Car" with country star Luke Combs, 33, whose 2023 cover of the song topped the charts and earned a Best Country Solo Performance nod. "When we got to the first rehearsal, we had tears in our eyes," says bassist Larry Klein, who played on the original studio recording of the song and joined Chapman, 59, onstage. Chapman first performed the song at the Grammys in 1989, the year she won Best New Artist.

Since her last tour ended in 2009, Chapman has made only a handful of public appearances. In November she won Song of the Year at the CMA Awards for "Fast Car," thanks to Combs's cover. "It's truly an honor," she said at the time. —ALEX ROSS

Chapman onstage with Combs.

This Week in Love!



BIRTHDAY LOVE

Julia Roberts & Danny Moder

The Oscar winner, 56, posted a sweet Instagram tribute to mark the cinematographer's 55th birthday on Jan. 31. "Happy Birthday to this amazing man who lights up our world," wrote Roberts, who married Moder in 2002 and shares three children with him.

MARRIED

Lauren Alaina & Cam Arnold

The *American Idol* alum, 29, and the insurance salesman, 35, tied the knot in front of 450 guests—and their dogs!—at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville on Feb. 4. "We have a lot of people who love us," says Alaina, who started dating Arnold in 2020.

DATE NIGHT

Sofía Vergara & Justin Saliman

The *Griselda* actress, 51, dined with the orthopedic surgeon, 49, at Cipriani Beverly Hills on Feb. 1. The couple started dating in October, three months after Vergara split from her husband of seven years, Joe Manganiello.

NEW COUPLE

Breckin Meyer & Kelly Rizzo

Two years after her late husband Bob Saget's death, the podcast host, 44, debuted her new relationship with the *Clueless* alum, 49, at Steven Tyler's annual Grammy Awards viewing party in L.A. on Feb. 4.

(MEYER & KELLY RIZZO) JOHN SALANGSANG/GETTY IMAGES; (VERGARA & SALIMAN) HEDO/BACKGRID; (SUDDETH & ARNOLD) KATHY THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHY

Melissa McCarthy & Ben Falcone's Season of Love and Laughter

Famously funny couple Melissa McCarthy, 53, and Ben Falcone, 50, talk whiskey (the two actors are partners with the brand Big Nose Kate, now available at all 32 Black Angus Steakhouse locations and other retailers across the country), party hosting and date nights after 18 years of marriage.

Of all the characters you've played, which one would you most want to invite over for a glass of whiskey?

McCARTHY I think Tammy [from 2014's *Tammy*], for sure. She would have way too many. We'd either end up fighting or kissing.

What's your key to party hosting?

FALCONE There's often a theme that Melissa will very lovingly and forcefully suggest.

McCARTHY If not everybody knows each other, but everybody looks equal parts ridiculous, you can talk to anybody.

Have you made any Valentine's Day plans this year?

FALCONE Well, I can't give them away, but there are a couple jets. There's a hot-air balloon. We jump from a jet into the hot-air balloon.

McCARTHY Oh, wow, you're going to kill me! We usually don't go out on Valentine's Day.

FALCONE On one of our first Valentine's Days, a long time ago, we went out to a restaurant, and it was devastatingly nerve-racking. Not for us, but you saw so many people on their first date. We were like, "We've got to get out of here and go relax somewhere."

What do your typical date nights look like?

FALCONE A lot of times I'll cook something, usually a steak.

McCARTHY We'll go out to dinner, just us two. Our girls [Vivian, 16, and Georgette, 13] are at an age now where going out to dinner is fun, just not with us.

What's the best Valentine's gift you've given each other?

FALCONE Well, Georgie was born close to Valentine's Day, so I would say that's a pretty big gift.

McCARTHY Ben gave me a pendant many, many years ago. It's a little heart that says "truly, madly, deeply" that I wear every day. So I love that.

FALCONE And our daughter is second.

—ERIN CLEMENTS

'WE USUALLY DON'T GO OUT ON VALENTINE'S DAY. I ALWAYS SAY, I LOVE [BEN] ALL YEAR ROUND'
— McCARTHY

Whiskey Business McCarthy and Falcone (above, in 2019 and, below, in New Mexico in 2023) invested in Big Nose Kate Whiskey in 2022. "This whiskey is so smoky, we're going to smoke your mind," says Falcone.

FROM TOP: PAUL SMITH/FEATUREFLASH PHOTO AGENCY/SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY BIG NOSE KATE WHISKEY (2)

The compound has five buildings and sits on a hill accessible by an open-air funicular.

OPEN HOUSE

Suzanne Somers's Beloved Desert Hideaway

The late *Three's Company* star's Palm Springs, Calif., home of more than 40 years is back on the market for $8.95 million. Somers—who died on Oct. 15 at age 76—and her husband, Alan Hamel, previously sold the sprawling 28-acre property for $8.5 million in 2021.

An outdoor tub allows guests to soak up the sun.

House Stats

On Sale For: $8.95 million

Location: Palm Springs, Calif.

Size: 7,280 sq. ft.

Bedrooms: 7

Bathrooms: 11

Somers told *People* in 2016 that the formal dining room—which has a fireplace and seats 32—was her favorite place to sing.

A lagoon-style pool and a cascading waterfall complement the outdoor beauty.

One of the villas, dubbed the "Rock House," was designed by famed architect Albert Frey.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: KELLY PEAK(5); DIA DIPASUPIL/GETTY IMAGES

Justin Timberlake's Public Apology to 'Nobody'

While celebrating his 43rd birthday on Jan. 31 with a one-night-only show at Irving Plaza in New York City, Justin Timberlake had some choice words for the crowd. "I'd like to take this opportunity to apologize to absolutely f---ing nobody," the former *NSYNC star said before singing his hit 2002 song "Cry Me a River." Timberlake's comments came after Britney Spears shared her thoughts on the "River" music video in her October memoir *The Woman in Me,* writing, "A woman who looks like me cheats on him and he wanders around sad in the rain."

Britney Spears

Following Timberlake's *Saturday Night Live* performance on Jan. 27, however, Spears praised her ex and his new music on Instagram. "I wanna apologize for some of the things I wrote about in my book. If I offended any of the people I genuinely care about I am deeply sorry…" she said in a since-deleted post. "I also wanted to say I am in love with Justin Timberlake's new song 'Selfish.' It is soo good."

At the time, an insider told *People* that Spears "honestly just wanted to wish [Justin] well. She's a kind person." But after Timberlake's onstage pronouncement, she posted another message on Instagram: "Someone told me someone was talking s--- about me on the streets!!! Do you want to bring it to the court or will you go home crying to your mom like you did last time??? I'm not sorry!!!"

—ALEX ROSS

A Very Special Guest Justin Timberlake's wife, Jessica Biel, joined him onstage at his N.Y.C. show to surprise the singer with a birthday cake and a song.

Elisabeth Moss: Getting Ready for Motherhood

Elisabeth Moss has played a mom on her hit Hulu series *The Handmaid's Tale* for the past seven years, and now she is preparing to become one offscreen. During an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* on Jan. 30, Moss responded, "A little bit of both" when host Jimmy Kimmel asked the actress, 41, whether she was "pregnant or just an incredibly committed Method actor." As to how she's been feeling during her pregnancy, Moss said "not bad, actually," adding, "I've been really lucky. It's been going really well."

Moss—who has not shared further details about her pregnancy, including her due date—has not been in a public relationship since she split from ex-husband Fred Armisen in 2011 after about a year of marriage. In 2018 the *Mad Men* alum—who is set to shoot the sixth and final season of *The Handmaid's Tale* this summer—made her desire to be a mother known in an interview with *Marie Claire UK*. "I like the idea of passing on what my mother passed on to me," she said. —JP MANGALINDAN

Glowing Mom-to-Be Kimmel (inset) gave Moss (in 2022) some parenting advice during her Jan. 30 appearance on his show.

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC; DIA DIPASUPIL/GETTY IMAGES; RANDY HOLMES/DISNEY

Parental Concern
At the Jan. 29 hearing lawyers for Cher said she feared "her son would not be alive within the year."

Cher's Fight for Conservatorship Over Her Son Hits a Snag

On Jan. 29 Cher appeared in a Los Angeles court remotely, as a judge denied her request for a temporary emergency conservatorship over her son Elijah Blue Allman, 47. Lawyers for Cher, 77, who appeared distraught, spoke about her concern for Allman's health and safety. According to her attorneys, Cher "feared that her son would not be alive within the year" and referenced his treatment for schizoaffective disorder, revealing that he was placed in several 5150 holds within the past year.

They also said they were working on receiving a bipolar diagnosis for Allman from a leading physician. "Cher was told by doctors that if she did not take this step as his mother, then he will once again end up on the street," her lawyers said in court.

The judge said there was not "sufficient evidence" to agree to the temporary conservatorship, since much of what they were arguing was based on "fears" and "hypotheticals." The next hearing is scheduled for March 6.

Cher originally filed in a Los Angeles Superior Court in early January, seeking to be the sole conservator of her son's estate. She claimed that he is "substantially unable to manage his financial resources" due to "severe mental health and substance abuse issues." Meanwhile Allman, who was recently granted a dismissal of his petition to divorce his wife, Marieangela King, maintained in a Jan. 22 filing that he is sober and does not need his mother's help. The "Believe" singer also claimed that King is not fit to be his conservator because "their tumultuous relationship has been marked by a cycle of drug addiction and mental health crises."

—DANIELA AVILA

Cher's Rock
The star took her mind off family troubles by attending a pre-Grammy Awards party with her boyfriend, Alexander "AE" Edwards, on Feb. 1.

Love Is Blind by the Numbers

Season 6, which follows 30 singles in Charlotte, N.C., starts streaming Feb. 14 on Netflix

12
Years of marriage Nick and Vanessa Lachey bring to their hosting duties

229.7 MILLION
Hours watched of season 4

8
Couples still married from seasons 1-5, including season 4's Zack and Bliss (below)

4
Spinoffs: Japan, Brazil, U.K. and Sweden

$20
The cost of a Golden Goblet from the Netflix Shop

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; VINCE BUCCI/NEWSMAKERS/GETTY IMAGES; ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; ADAM ROSE/NETFLIX; NETFLIX (2)

Attitude of Gratitude Ben-Adir (left, with Ryan Gosling in *Barbie* and, below, in *Bob Marley: One Love*) feels "lucky" to be at this point in his life and career.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DANNY KASIRYE/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; WARNER BROS. PICTURES; EVERETT

Kingsley Ben-Adir: From *Barbie* to Bob Marley

Over the past four years Kingsley Ben-Adir has stacked his résumé portraying famous figures, both real and fictional: He played Barack Obama in the 2020 miniseries The Comey Rule, *Malcolm X in the 2020 film* One Night in Miami *and a Ken in the 2023 blockbuster* Barbie. *The married U.K. native, 37, continues the streak with his turn as the late reggae icon Bob Marley in the new biopic* Bob Marley: One Love *(premiering Feb. 14).*

What was the biggest challenge playing Bob Marley?

Singing and learning the guitar were challenging for sure, but they were fun challenges. I was starting from scratch.

You prepped for the role while filming *Barbie*. What was it like balancing both?

On-set there's a lot of downtime, so it just made sense to come into *Barbie* every morning with a guitar and a laptop. When there was a few hours, I'd sit behind the Mojo Dojo Casa and practice some [Jamaican] patois and some chords, and then I'd come back and do the singing for "I'm Just Ken."

> ***'I SAT BEHIND THE MOJO DOJO CASA AND PRACTICED SOME [JAMAICAN] PATOIS AND SOME CHORDS'***
>
> —BEN-ADIR, on preparing to play Bob Marley while filming *Barbie*

The assistant directors were really helpful and wrapped me as early as they could. They'd be like, "You have half an hour. Go learn [Marley's] 'Redemption Song' and come back."

"I'm Just Ken" is nominated for Best Original Song at the Oscars. Will you perform at the show?

I haven't been invited yet, but if they do want to do it, I'd be happy to come back and have a go.

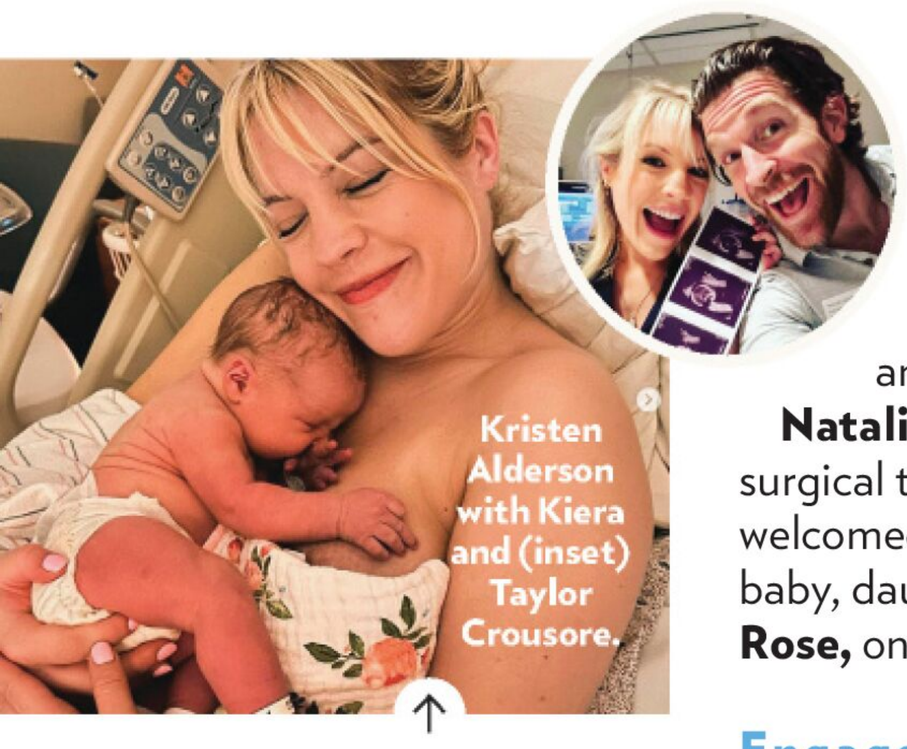
What does an ideal day off look like for you?

I'll message the boys on WhatsApp and be like, "Who wants to meet tomorrow?" We'll go for a cold swim—there's an unheated swimming pool in Hampstead Heath in London. Then we'll have some breakfast. Nothing beats having a nice bit of food with people that you love.

Do you still play the guitar after learning it for *One Love*?

No, it's on a stand in my kitchen. I look at it every day. I'm just waiting for the right time.

—ERIC ANDERSSON


Kristen Alderson with Kiera and (inset) Taylor Crousore.

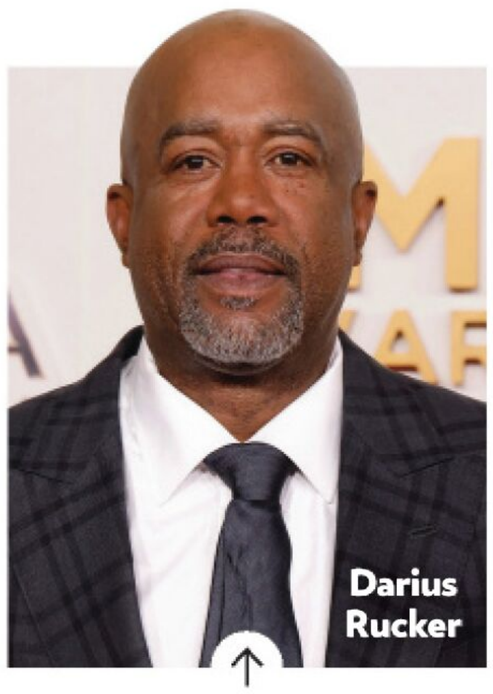
she wrote on Instagram. ● Former *Bachelor* star **Nick Viall,** 43, and his fiancée, **Natalie Joy,** 25, a surgical technologist, welcomed their first baby, daughter **River Rose,** on Feb. 2.

Babies

One Life to Live actress **Kristen Alderson,** 32, and her fiancé, podcast host **Taylor Crousore,** welcomed their first baby, daughter **Kiera Sky,** on Jan. 29. "She's everything and more than we could have ever asked for!"

Engagements

Singer **Asiahn,** 36, and **Jay Shalé,** a DJ, revealed they got engaged for a second time on Jan. 25. "I had already proposed to her on my birthday, but she felt like we were only half fiancées because we're both ladies, and I didn't have a ring," Asiahn told *People*.


Darius Rucker

Crime

On Feb. 1 country singer **Darius Rucker,** 57, was arrested on two counts of simple possession/casual exchange of a controlled substance and one count of a violation of vehicle registration law in Williamson County, Tenn. He was booked on all three charges as misdemeanors before being released on $10,500 bond. The controlled substances were later reported to be marijuana and psilocin, a psychedelic.

Happy Birthday!

Yoko Ono, 91
Feb. 18, 1933

Elizabeth Olsen, 35
Feb. 16, 1989

John Travolta, 70
Feb. 18, 1954

Brian Wilson with wife Melinda in 2015.

Deaths

Melinda Ledbetter Wilson, who was married to Beach Boys legend **Brian Wilson** for 28 years, died at their home in Beverly Hills on Jan. 30. She was 77. Her efforts to save him from the grips of mental illness were immortalized in the 2014 film *Love & Mercy*. No cause of death was given. ● British TV star **Jonnie Irwin** died more than three years after he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, a statement posted to his Instagram confirmed on Feb. 2. He was 50. ● Three-time Tony-winning dancer **Hinton Battle** died in Los Angeles on Jan. 30. No cause was available at press time. He was 67.

Health

Baywatch alum **Nicole Eggert,** 52, revealed to *Inside Edition* on Feb. 1 that doctors have found more cancer in her lymph nodes. "It's horrible," said Eggert, who first announced she was diagnosed with stage 2 cribriform carcinoma breast cancer in December.

BY DANIELA AVILA

CRIME

Patrick Mahomes Sr. Arrested on DWI Charge

The incident comes days ahead of his son's Super Bowl LVII matchup with the 49ers

Patrick Mahomes Sr., 53, the father of Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes—who will appear in Super Bowl LVII, his fourth NFL championship game, on Feb. 11—was arrested on Feb. 3 in Tyler, Texas. He was booked in the Smith County Jail for suspicion of driving while intoxicated, a third-degree felony that carries a sentence of up to 10 years. The following day he was released on a $10,000 bond. Mahomes, a former MLB pitcher, was previously charged with DWI in 2018 and 2019, for which he pleaded guilty and served 40 days over weekends in a county jail. —D.A.

Patrick Mahomes Sr. in a Feb. 3 mug shot and with Mahomes Jr. last September.

(ONO) KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; (RUCKER) TAYLOR HILL/WIREIMAGE; (WILSON & LEDBETTER) SNAPSHOT-PHOTOGRAPHY/K C KOMPE/SHUTTERSTOCK; (MUGSHOT) TYLER POLICE DEPARTMENT

1933-2024

Broadway Legend Chita Rivera Dies at 91

She added pizzazz (and all that jazz) to landmark musicals like *West Side Story*

An electric presence in the original Broadway productions of *West Side Story, Bye Bye Birdie* and *Chicago,* Chita Rivera had theatrical verve—what's referred to in *Chicago* as "the old razzle dazzle"—in every nerve of her body. "When I'm onstage," she told the *Harvard Business Review,* "everybody in the audience may be applauding, but if one person is sitting on their hands, that's who will catch my eye, and I'll feel I've got to win them over."

She always succeeded. The two-time Tony winner, who died at age 91 on Jan. 30, was a one-of-a-kind singer-actress-dancer—an early review described her sex appeal as "flammable" and her showstopping kicks as "gyroscopic." In a career that lasted more than six decades, she was "an all-time great" and the epitome of American "grace and grit," said President Joe Biden. A Broadway legend, she inspired other legends in turn, from *Hamilton*'s Lin-Manuel Miranda, who saluted the Latina star as a "trailblazer," to Liza Minnelli, who was 13 when she saw Rivera in *Birdie.* "It changed my life," Minnelli told *People* in 1994, when she was starring with Rivera in *The Rink.* "I said: 'That's what I want to do.' "

'I DON'T CARE HOW OLD YOU ARE. YOU SHOULD CONSTANTLY BE LEARNING FROM THE SMALLEST NAMES TO THE BIGGEST'
—CHITA RIVERA

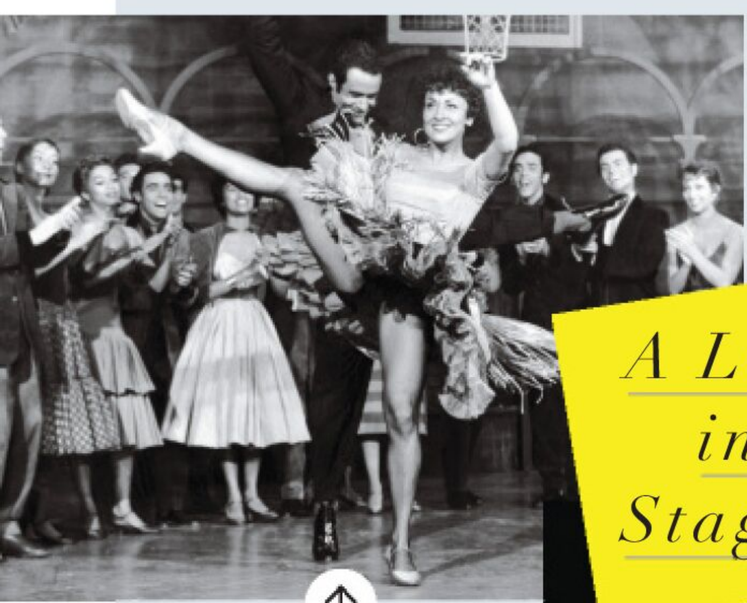
Rivera—born Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero Montestuco Florentina Carnemacaral del Fuente—grew up in Washington, D.C. Her Puerto Rican father, Pedro, died when she was 7, leaving her mother, Katherine, a government employee, to raise five children. It was Katherine who set Rivera on her path, putting her in ballet school at age 9: "I'd been jumping on our coffee table and broke it. She wanted to channel my energy."

Rivera thrived on pointe, but the musical theater was where she really felt at home. In 1957 she became a star as tough, tempestuous Anita in *West Side Story.* (She also became a mother with then husband Tony Mordente, one of the Jets: Daughter Lisa Mordente was born a year into the show's run.) She went on to appear on Broadway 18 times in all and toured endlessly. "You don't want to get roots," she told the *Los Angeles Times.* "They pull you down."

Rivera wasn't always thrilled to see Hollywood stars take on her signature roles in movie adaptations—Rita Moreno in 1961's *West Side Story,* Janet Leigh in 1963's *Birdie,* Catherine Zeta-Zones in 2002's *Chicago*. She got over it: "You have to laugh," she wrote in her 2023 memoir *Chita.* Although she admitted that when she first saw Moreno's Anita, she thought: "How dare she!"

—TOM GLIATTO

A Life in Stages



West Side Story
"I am often asked, 'How did it feel to be in *West Side Story*?' " Rivera (in 1957) wrote in her memoir *Chita.* "The simple answer? Ecstasy."

Bye Bye Birdie
"I loved her," said Dick Van Dyke of his costar in the Tony-winning hit, which opened in 1960.

Chicago
Rivera (center) originated the role of murderess Velma Kelly (and had a small role in the hit 2002 movie version).

Her 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom "was the first realization that I had done something right," she said.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MATT HOLYOAK/CAMERA PRESS/REDUX; WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOFEST; EVERETT(2)

WEDDING COLOR *of* THE YEAR

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smile!

A video of Daisy meowing during the wedding has been viewed 15 million times on TikTok @gatsby.and.daisy.

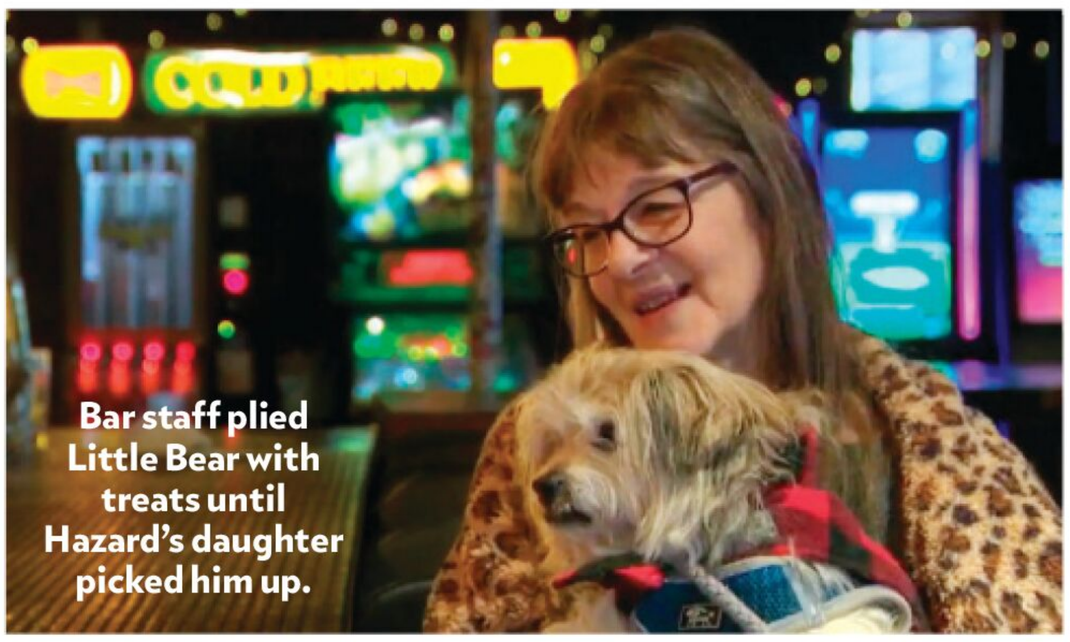
Couple Adopt Kitten That Crashed Their Wedding

New York City

Cara and Matt Hamdan had a cat-themed wedding, complete with cat-shaped cake toppers—and at their nuptials, a 3-month-old stray kitten interrupted the ceremony. "The cat crashing the wedding was the hit of the night," says Cara, 30. The couple wanted to adopt her on the spot, but the kitten ran away. Two weeks later the venue called and said the cat had been found, and the newlyweds began the adoption process. Daisy is now at home in Queens and best friends with the couple's other cat, Gatsby. "She has fallen in love with us, and we've fallen in love with her," Cara says. —**WENDY GROSSMAN KANTOR**

Mark your calendars for happy days ahead!

Feb. 10 Teddy Day
Feb. 11 National Latte Day
Feb. 12 Hug Day
Feb. 13 Galentine's Day
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day



Bar staff plied Little Bear with treats until Hazard's daughter picked him up.

A Dog Walks Into a Bar...

Milwaukee

Shih tzu mix Little Bear lives in Brew City, so it only makes sense that when the 16-year-old escaped through his backyard gate in January, he was found about an hour later at the neighborhood bar Finks. "He's getting old, he figured his days are numbered, he might as well go out and party," jokes his owner Jenny Hazard, 65. "I don't know if he had a beer or not—but we won't tell on him if he did." —**W.G.K.**

Have a story that makes you smile?
Send suggestions to **storiestomakeyousmile@people.com**

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: COURTESY FOX 6/MILWAUKEE/WITI; GETTY IMAGES; @_GATSBY.AND.DAISY(2); INSET: SARAH CHURCHILL

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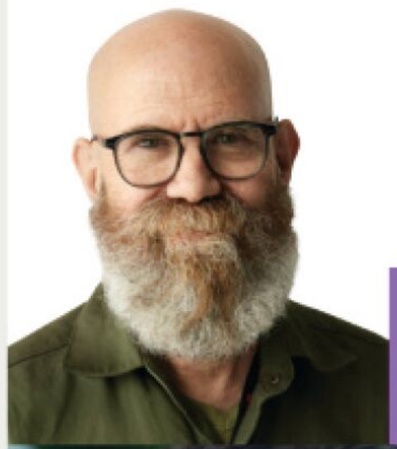

picks

THE BUZZ ON WHAT TO WATCH, READ & LISTEN TO THIS WEEK!

Mod and Woodall have chemistry that lasts.

BINGE *this!*

NETFLIX | One Day

An intimate epic of friendship and love

COMEDY-DRAMA Based on David Nicholls's 2009 bestseller, *Day* covers nearly 20 years in the relationship of Dexter (*The White Lotus*'s Leo Woodall) and Emma (Ambika Mod). The narrative comes with a gimmick. We follow the pair's progress (and setbacks) across 14 episodes, most covering a single year each, and all commencing on the same date: July 15. That's when the two first hook up—in 1988—spending the night together after a day of giddy excitement as freshly minted graduates of the University of Edinburgh. At first this setup can feel annoyingly arbitrary—slicing two lives into neat segments, as if they were vegetables being mandolined. But *Day* transcends all that. Emma quotes a line from *Great Expectations*: In any life, Dickens wrote, "imagine one selected day struck out of it, and think how different its course would have been . . . of the long chain of iron or gold, of thorns or flowers, that would never have bound you, but for the formation of the first link on one memorable day." The series captures that strange magic.

It's best not to give too much plot, other than to say Dexter is callow and privileged, a few rungs below *Saltburn,* and Emma is smart, ambitious and awkward. It's *The Way We Were* for a new generation. If you don't choose this as your Valentine's Day binge, your boxed chocolates should be filled with ash. *(Streaming now)*

'*The Way We Were* for a new generation'

FROM TOP: ARI & LOUISE; TEDDY CAVENDISH/NETFLIX

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Youth mental health issues are on the rise—and so is the demand for therapy dogs. Purina is helping ensure there's one for any kid who needs it by helping employees get their pets certified.

People picks

Richie and Cyndi Lauper.

NETFLIX

The Greatest Night in Pop

DOCUMENTARY Just about everyone who was hot in American music teamed up on Jan. 28, 1985, to record "We Are the World," the landmark charity single: Michael Jackson, Bruce Springsteen, Lionel Richie and on and on. When the session ended, Diana Ross cried, "I don't want this to be over!" *(Streaming now)*

family FUN!

DISNEY+ | **Bluey**

ANIMATED This Australian cartoon about a household of dogs—Mum, Dad, Bingo and, of course, Bluey—is deservedly a huge hit, with 10 new episodes streaming. The situations are cute yet credible (the pups are thrilled by a beach rental's bunk beds), and the humor has the recognizable tang of any family's daily life. *(Streaming now)*

FROM TOP: NETFLIX; DISNEY+

You Oughta Know . . .

"You have so much control in stand-up," says the California native. "You don't have to wait to see how people respond to things."

Taylor Tomlinson

After two Netflix specials, the comedian, 30, takes on CBS's *After Midnight*

By **Dana Rose Falcone**

She doesn't want to overthink being the only woman currently hosting a late-night show.
"If I were in middle school, I would be like, 'Oh s---.' I just try to stay present in this business and not get too caught up in what people are thinking or how they're viewing me. Ultimately, I got hired to do a job. I hope I do a good job, and I hope more and more women continue to get jobs like this."

***Harry Potter* helped her cope after her mom died when she was 8.**
"I started reading *Harry Potter,* and that was helpful at the time. I read [the series] for a year before my dad was like, 'That's not Christian. Put it down.' As a kid, I loved movies and TV and really anything creative. Something I love about being in entertainment now is I know how helpful it can be for people to distract them from what's painful in their lives."

Her dad enrolled her in comedy classes.
"A woman at our church suggested he take me, but I wasn't super familiar with stand-up. We loved Brian Regan in my house. I got to open for him a few times in my early 20s, which was so surreal. And I got to go on tour with Conan [O'Brien]—really cool as far as meeting your heroes. Once I found stand-up, I felt like myself."

You won't catch her tuning in to reality TV.
"I wish I was more of a reality show person. *The Bachelor* makes me so sad. I just started watching *Pose.* I know I'm super late to that."

She speaks candidly onstage about having bipolar disorder.
"I'm a personal comedian. I talk about what's going on in my life, and that's what was going on in my life. At first I was like, 'I'm not going to share this.' Then I'm on the road, and I'm like, 'Maybe I'll just try one joke about it.' Then that works, and you're like, 'Okay, I *do* have more to say about it.'"

Tomlinson was "starstruck every five seconds" at this year's Emmys (with John Oliver, right, and Stephen Colbert).

She unwinds by listening to a jazz playlist. "I didn't make it," she clarifies. "I found it on Spotify."

Tomlinson's third Netflix stand-up special, *Have It All,* drops Feb. 13.

FROM TOP: RAMONA ROSALES/CBS/GETTY IMAGES; ROB LATOUR/SHUTTERSTOCK; TODD ROSENBERG/NETFLIX; ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

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Glover and Erskine.

NEW series!

AMAZON | Mr. & Mrs. Smith

Spies in the house of love

COMEDY That title strikes the tuning fork of popular memory, sending out a long, low hum: The 2005 film, about a pair of married spies, launched Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt as one of Hollywood's most deliriously sexy couples (for a while, anyway). This eight-episode reboot, co-created by its always inventive star Donald Glover, scrapes off the glitz, conceiving the story instead in terms of the realistically evolving relationship between novice agents John (Glover) and Jane (*PEN15*'s Maya Erskine). They stumble and fumble their way through both espionage and romance. The show is like Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy's *Before* trilogy but with guns, violence and death. The supporting cast is terrific: Paul Dano, Parker Posey, Michaela Coel. *(Streaming now)*

DAVID LEE/PRIME VIDEO

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Matthew McConaughey *Stand Up To Cancer Ambassador*
Photo by **John Russo** *Background Photo by* **Bobby Altman**

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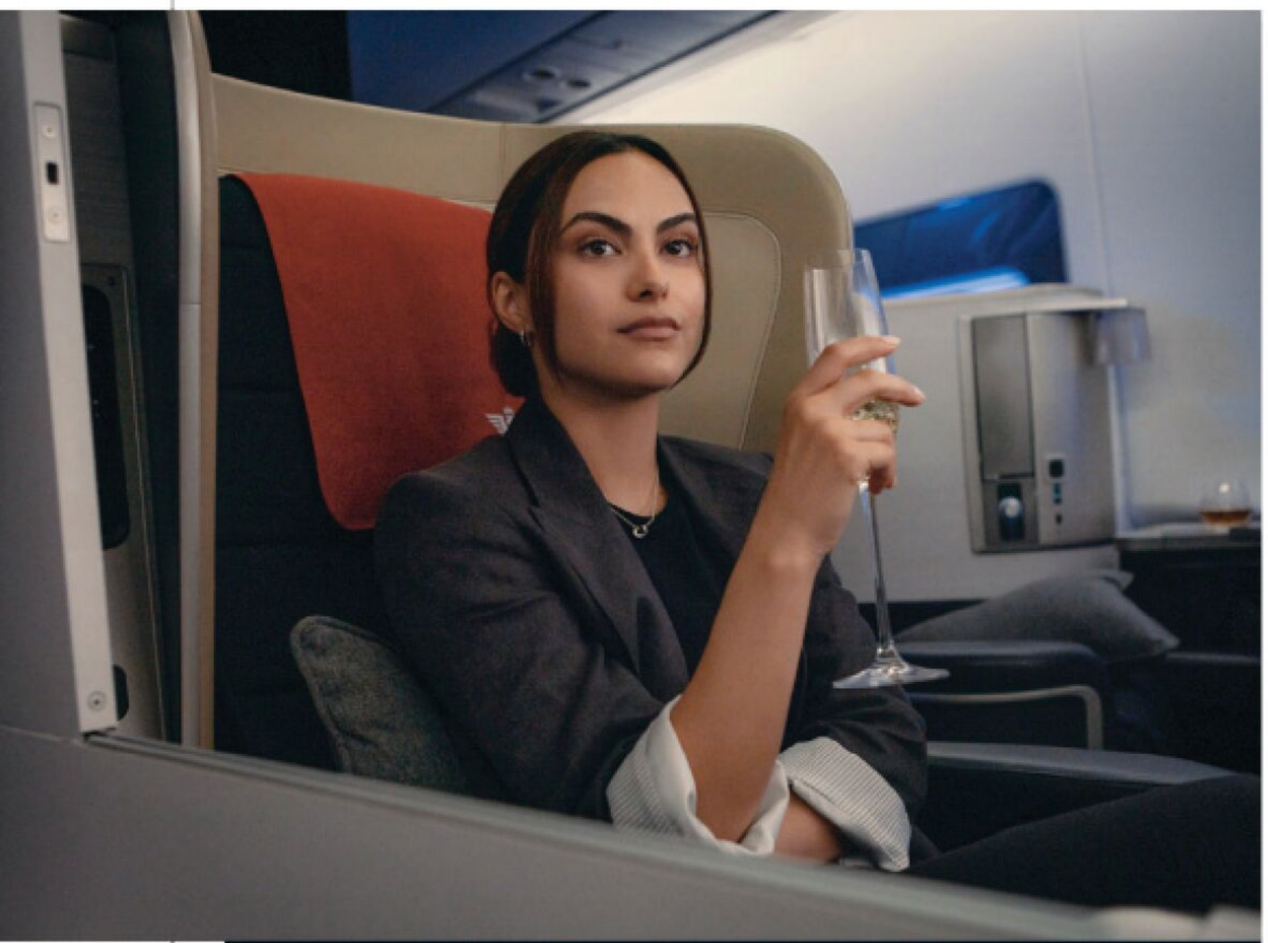


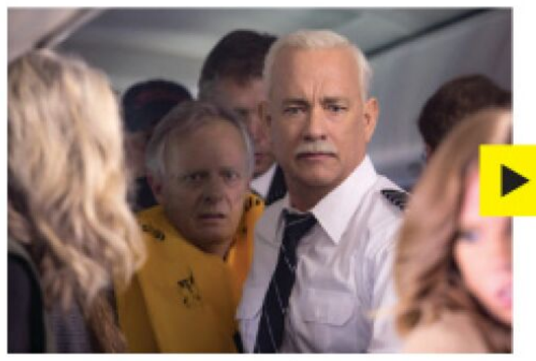
AMAZON | Upgraded

ROM-COM Impulsively hoping to impress a handsome stranger (*Shadow and Bones*'s Archie Renaux), Ana (*Riverdale*'s Camila Mendes) pretends to be the director of a prestigious auction house (she's just an intern). *Upgraded* is a slickly predictable film, but that's exactly what—and all—you want it to be. *(Launches Feb. 9)*

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: PAUL STEPHENSON/AMAZON MGM STUDIOS; EVERETT; SCOTT GARFIELD/PARAMOUNT PICTURES; EVERETT

If You're Loving *Masters of the Air*...

...check out these hit films about heroic pilots

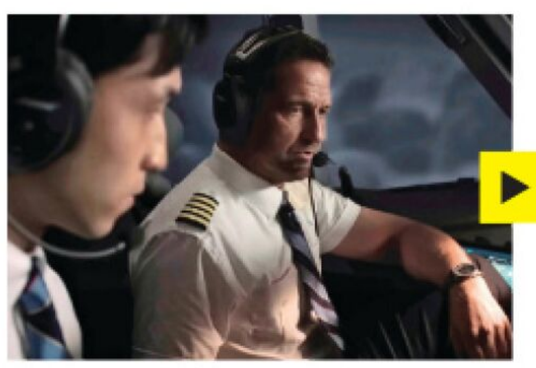


Sully (2016)
DRAMA

Clint Eastwood directed this rigorously brisk film about "Sully" Sullenberger (Tom Hanks), who safely landed a US Airways flight on the Hudson River in 2009. *(Amazon)*

Top Gun: Maverick (2022)
ACTION

Tom Cruise returns as America's favorite Navy flier, still nervy and intrepid. This time he takes charge of a dangerous bombing mission abroad. *(Paramount+)*



Plane (2023)
ACTION

A commercial pilot (Gerard Butler) flies into a major storm system—which turns out to be the least of his troubles. Enjoyably outlandish. *(Apple TV)*

MOVIE | Argylle

Bryce Dallas Howard pulls off a tricky role in a spotty adventure

ACTION As a quiet-living spy novelist whose plots prove prophetic, Howard is both sublime and assured. The film's storyline, though, is a hodgepodge as it drags its way toward a big twist. (Possible spoiler: Remember the 1996 Geena Davis film *The Long Kiss Goodnight*?) Alas, this reveal is deployed too late to fully rescue the overlong *Argylle,* which wants to skewer spy films but ends up falling victim to the genre's tropes. There are choppy action sequences throughout, along with a cavalcade of starry cameos. A dapper, if stiff, Henry Cavill shows up as a James Bond substitute with a questionable hairdo. *(In theaters, PG-13)*

Howard and Samuel L. Jackson.

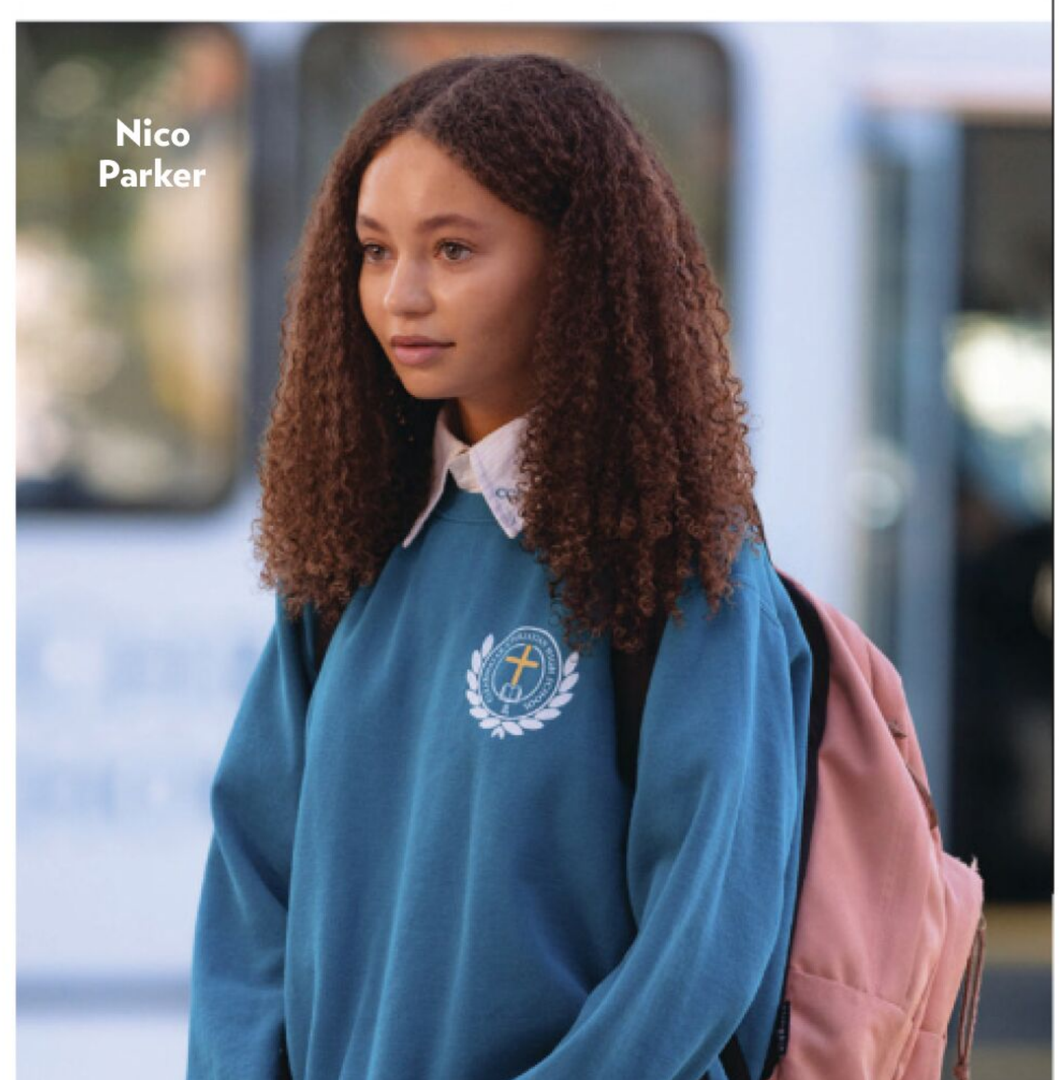
HULU | Suncoast

DRAMA At 17, Doris (*Dumbo*'s Nico Parker) is exhausted from years spent helping to care for her invalid brother, now in hospice. And she feels a burning resentment at her mother (Laura Linney), whose nurturing tenderness has been mostly devoted to the boy. This coming-of-age story is moving—but you may wonder why it isn't wrenching. *(Launches Feb. 9)*

Yakusho and Arisa Nakano.

MOVIE | Perfect Days

DRAMA Up for Best International Feature, *Days* is the beatific, deceptively simple story of Hirayama (Koji Yakusho), a Tokyo toilet cleaner. As he goes about his monotonous day, Hirayama is quietly delighted with every small incident—he's almost saintly. Ultimately, though, it's not clear whether his contentment isn't really sorrow. *(In limited release, PG)*



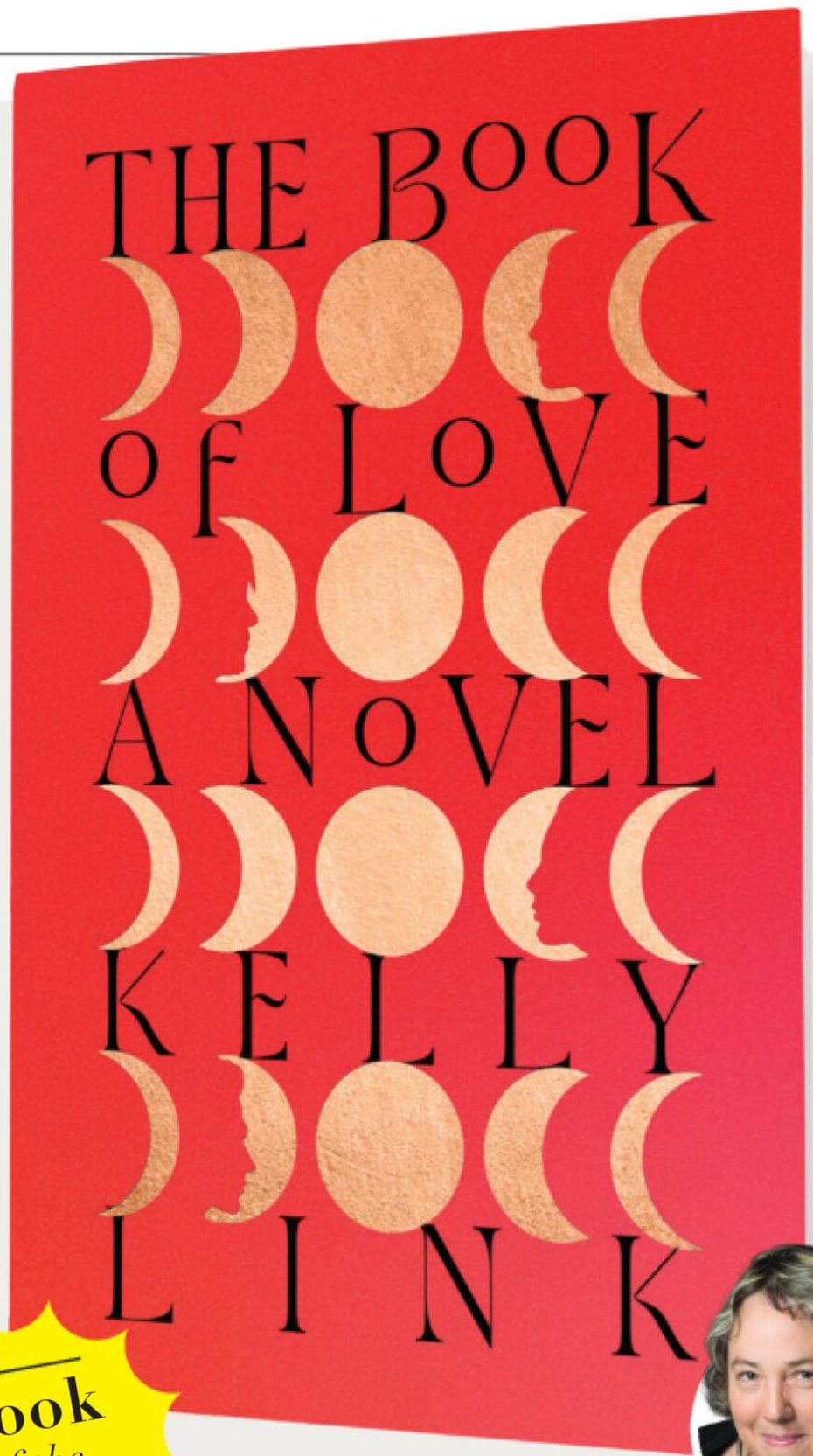
Nico Parker

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PETER MOUNTAIN/UNIVERSAL PICTURES; ERIC ZACHANOWICH/SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES; NEON

The Best New Books

Supernatural taskmasters, long-lost lovers reconnected, and a jilted man on a mission

Edited by **LIZZ SCHUMER**



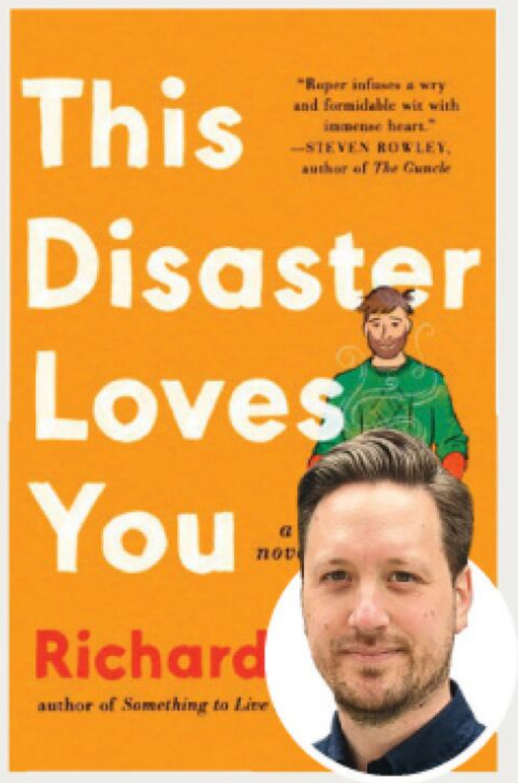
book of the week

Kelly Link
The Book of Love
NOVEL

Teens Laura, Daniel and Mo come back from the dead and must complete a series of magical tasks to remain among the living. But their reappearance attracts other supernatural forces to their small Massachusetts town, and the trio have to figure out how to use their new powers, keep their loved ones from learning where they've really been all year and save themselves—and their town—from death, or worse. It's inventive, unputdownable and a ton of fun.

Roxana Robinson
Leaving
NOVEL

They haven't seen each other in 40 years, but when Warren and Sarah run into each other at the opera, it's clear their long-ago breakup was a mistake. If only it were that simple. As it navigates the chasm between responsibility and desire, this beautiful book will sweep you away.



Richard Roper
This Disaster Loves You
NOVEL

Brian thinks he and Lily are happy running a pub on England's Devon Coast—until one day Lily leaves without explanation. Still bereft years later, Brian seizes on a clue to her whereabouts and dashes off to find her, with unexpected results. Heartwarming and hilarious.

Great Non-Novels

Kwame Alexander
This Is the Honey
By turns joyful, piercing and poignant, this gorgeous collection from some of today's best Black poets and writers will persuade even the hesitant to try poetry.

Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez
My Side of the River: A Memoir
At 15, the author stayed in the U.S. with her little brother after her parents were deported. This is her affecting story.

Diane Oliver
Neighbors and Other Stories
These short stories confront living through racism in Jim Crow America in intimate, often chilling tales. An engrossing book by a talent lost too young.

INSETS, FROM LEFT: SHARONA JACOBS; BEOWULF SHEEHAN; COURTESY RICHARD ROPER

A LEGEND

ROBERT DE NIRO OPENS UP ABOUT HIS UNPARALLELED CAREER, RAISING 'ADORABLE' BABY DAUGHTER GIA AND WHAT COMES NEXT

By **ERIC ANDERSSON**

Photographs by MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

OKS AHEAD

During the six decades he's spent in front of the camera, Robert De Niro has earned a reputation for playing no-nonsense tough guys to perfection. He's been magnetically menacing in films from *Mean Streets* and *Taxi Driver* to his most recent chilling turn in *Killers of the Flower Moon* (earning him his ninth Oscar nomination). In person, De Niro is thoughtful and funny as he talks about his career and family, but he's decidedly no-nonsense too. He'll answer a question with one wry word, and he's not shy about making a wisecrack to shut down a query. "If it's a therapy session, that's one thing," he says by way of avoiding a follow-up about his childhood during a January interview at the Greenwich Hotel, where he has offices in New York City. "This is not."

Analyze this? Nope. De Niro's not looking in the rearview mirror because he has his eyes fixed on the road ahead. "As things come, you don't expect them," he says. "You got to be ready. I'm ready to take whatever life gives me." That philosophy has sustained his storied career, which includes two Oscar wins (for *The Godfather Part II* and *Raging Bull*), 10 feature films with friend and director Martin Scorsese and dozens of films that showcase his dramatic and comedic range, from *Goodfellas* to *Meet the Parents*. (Twenty-four years later, fans still approach him to quote his famous taunt to Ben Stiller, "I will bring you down, baby. I will bring you down to Chinatown.")

At 80, De Niro isn't slowing down anytime soon. In between sips of chamomile tea, he talks about the future, particularly his desire to continue working—"I enjoy it," he says—and savor more time with his family, which recently expanded. Last year he welcomed his youngest child, Gia, with his girlfriend, martial arts instructor Tiffany Chen, 45, with whom he's been linked romantically since 2021. "She's such an adorable baby. So sweet," he says of the smiley 10-month-old. "[When I] look at her, everything else goes away. So it's a great joy and relief to just be with her in the moment."

> 'As things come, you don't expect them. You got to be ready'
> —ON HIS FUTURE

De Niro's other children, Drena, 56, and Raphael, 47 (with his first wife, Diahnne Abbott), twins Julian and Aaron, 28 (with ex-girlfriend, Toukie Smith) and Elliot, 25, and Helen, 12 (with ex-wife Grace Hightower), are proud older siblings. "The kids all get a big kick out of her," he says of Gia. "The grandkids even. She's their aunt—[and] they're about to be teenagers!" (Raphael has three children.) A family man to his core, De Niro loves when they can all gather. "The fact that they'd all be together," he says, "is everything to me."

One absence that is profoundly felt: his grandson Leandro De Niro Rodriguez, Drena's child, who died from an overdose of fentanyl and other drugs last July at age 19. The shocking tragedy left him in "disbelief," De Niro says now. "It's awful. [I] was stunned and never thought it would happen.... And I just then started thinking about all the things I could have, should have done maybe with him. I don't know if that would've made a difference," he says. "And so that's always playing through my mind. It shouldn't have happened."

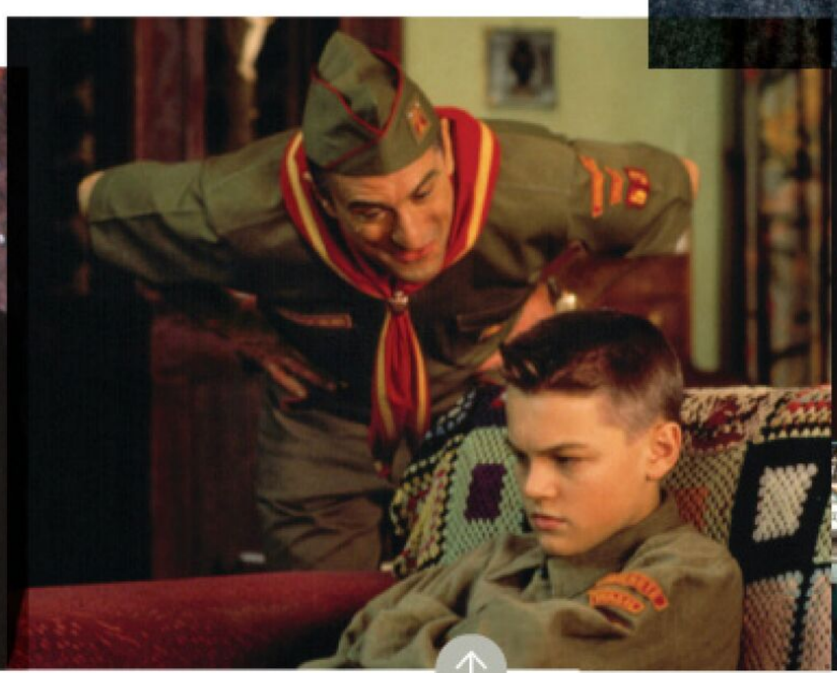
De Niro was born and raised downtown in his beloved New York City, the only child of artists Robert De Niro Sr. and Virginia Admiral, both talented painters. They split when he was young

Highlights From an *Iconic* Career

The Godfather Part II (1974)
For his role as young Vito Corleone, De Niro (with Michael V. Gazzo) put in "a lot of work" to learn the Sicilian language.

Taxi Driver (1976)
De Niro donned a mohawk cap as war vet Travis Bickle. "I was going to shoot *The Last Tycoon* after," he says. "I needed hair!"

Raging Bull (1980)
Under a doctor's care, De Niro ate "everything" and gained 60 lbs. to portray boxer Jack LaMotta. He won the Best Actor Oscar.



This Boy's Life (1993)
"That kid had something special," De Niro remembers thinking about young costar Leonardo DiCaprio after seeing him audition for the coming-of-age drama, set in the 1950s.

BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: EVERETT(2); DISNEY GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT; UNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT; MELINDA SUE GORDON/APPLE TV

Meet the Parents (2000)
De Niro (with Ben Stiller) showed off his comedic side as a protective dad in the hit, which spawned two sequels.

Silver Linings Playbook (2012)
Impressed with director David O. Russell's "terrific" film *The Fighter*, De Niro was eager to work with him on the dramedy costarring Bradley Cooper and Jacki Weaver.

Killers of the Flower Moon (2023)
After injuring his quadriceps, De Niro (with Lily Gladstone and Leonardo DiCaprio) had surgery, then resumed filming while still recovering. "They made the pants a little bigger to accommodate the brace," he says.

after Robert Sr. came out as gay. His childhood was "okay," says De Niro. "I [have] good memories and others that I suppose like anybody would."

He dropped out of high school to pursue acting and studied at renowned Manhattan acting institutions. In the 1960s he worked on Off-Broadway productions and began his career in film. "When I started I wasn't a movie star, and it sucked," he once quipped with characteristic bluntness. His role in the gritty 1973 crime drama *Mean Streets*—directed by Scorsese—marked a turning point in his career when critics (and peers like Meryl Streep) took notice.

De Niro says he's "lucky" to have collaborated with the Oscar-winning director, whom he affectionately calls Marty. "He allows people to do what they can do best, and then he'll direct from there,"

'I just about get enough sleep'

—ON WORKING AND HAVING A BABY AT HOME

says the actor. The pair's most recent collaboration, *Killers*, tells the harrowing true story of the Reign of Terror in 1920s Oklahoma. De Niro plays William Hale, a seemingly benevolent White man who orchestrates the murders of several Indigenous Osage people to steal their oil-rich land.

As he's done for decades, De Niro threw himself into the role. "When Bob commits, he starts digging in with research, questions about absolutely everything, from what the character wears to what he eats for breakfast," says Scorsese. "The search and the discoveries never stop."

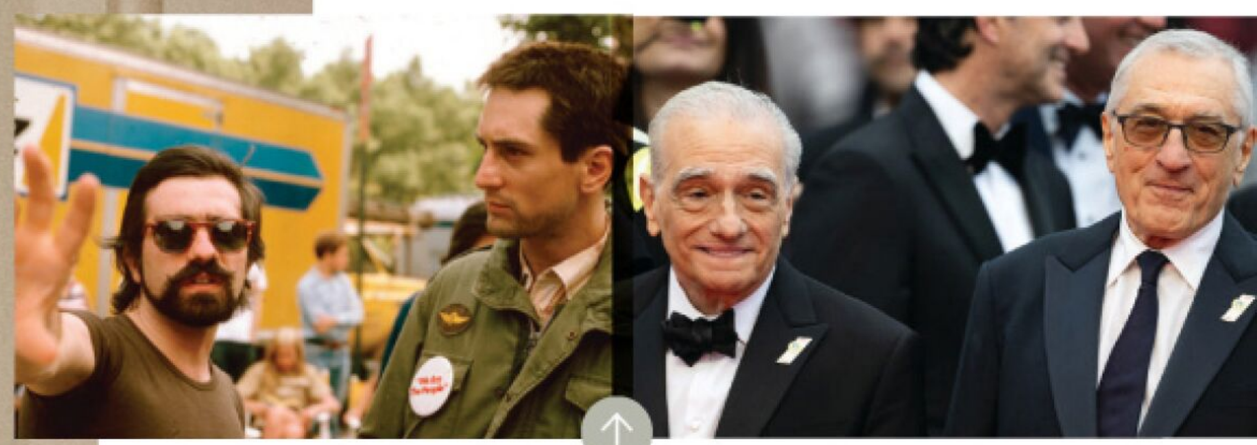
De Niro took pains to learn the Osage language. "He was spending every waking minute trying to get it right," recalls costar Lily Gladstone. "His partner, Tiffany, has joked that he would start speaking Osage in his sleep." Asked about Chen overhearing him, De Niro confirms: "She heard me mumbling. I was constantly going over and over. I couldn't stumble through that [onscreen]."

The persistence paid off: De Niro's perfor-

De Niro's *Family Snapshots*

1. De Niro says Gia (with him last September) resembles him when he was a baby: "I see a lot of similarity." **2.** His favorite thing to do with family? "Taking trips to warm places," says De Niro (with his oldest child, Drena, in 2013). **3.** "She's almost 13!" De Niro marvels about his second-youngest child, Helen (holding Gia in January).

(FAMILY) CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY ROBERT DE NIRO(2); COURTESY LYNDA EICHNER



A Fruitful, 50-Year Friendship
Scorsese and De Niro (left, on the set of *Taxi Driver* in 1975, and right, last May in France) have worked together since 1973's *Mean Streets*. Of their friendship, Scorsese tells *People*, "I treasure the sheer longevity. The trust. The love."

mance has been widely acclaimed, and he earned his eighth acting Oscar nomination (he has one more for producing Best Picture nominee *The Irishman*), putting him in elite company with just 17 performers in all of Hollywood history who have eight or more acting nominations. (Think: Streep, Katharine Hepburn, Jack Nicholson, Denzel Washington.)

De Niro was on the set of his upcoming Netflix series *Zero Day*, a political thriller he's also executive-producing, when he heard the news of his latest nod. How does it feel to be recognized at this point in his career? "Great." Did he savor the moment and pop some champagne? "No."

"The chance of winning is so . . . you can't think about it," he explains. "The fact that you've got nominated, that's great." While he's modest about himself, he's fervently rooting for Gladstone to take home the trophy for Best Actress. "It's right for her; I'm hoping that'll happen," he says. He's also disappointed that costar Leonardo DiCaprio was left off the Best Actor list. "I feel bad. But that's what happens. Who knows?"

Again, that's in the past, and De Niro is more focused on the future. The weather will be warmer soon, and he's looking forward to taking Gia for walks in a baby carrier and eventually for bike rides around the city on his days off. He notes proudly that Gia loves looking at his father's artwork, and he's grateful that she doesn't roll her eyes at him—yet.

De Niro says there are lessons he learned from parenting his six older children that he's applying this time around but declines to get specific. "It's personal," he explains. "But you always, of course, as you get old and learn things, [think] what you should have done, what you didn't do, what you could do. And then you just say, 'Look, I try my best.'" ●

PROP STYLIST: JACOB BURSTEIN/MHS ARTISTS; HAIR & MAKEUP: LYNDA EICHNER USING TREES AND FLOWERS® FOR SKIN; (SCORCESE) FROM LEFT: STEVE SCHAPIRO/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES; SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE

Standing Strong
King Charles (in a previously unseen photo taken in September) "has often spoken publicly in support of cancer patients," a palace spokesman says.

KING CHARLES

Royal Health Shock

THE 75-YEAR-OLD MONARCH RECEIVES A CANCER DIAGNOSIS LESS THAN ONE YEAR INTO HIS REIGN—BUT THE PALACE OFFERS SCANT DETAILS ON HIS CONDITION. AS HE PAUSES PUBLIC DUTIES, HOW THE KING'S FRACTURED FAMILY IS RALLYING AROUND HIM

By **SIMON PERRY**

On Feb. 4 the royal family used their social media to highlight World Cancer Day, showing photos of Queen Camilla at a new cancer support center in the U.K. That same morning King Charles, 75, accompanied by Camilla, 76, attended a morning service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, near their country retreat in Sandringham. The monarch, still recovering from his Jan. 26 operation for a benign enlarged prostate, cheerfully waved to well-wishers, offering no hint of the impending announcement that would shake the world just a day later: Charles has cancer, the palace revealed in a 138-word statement that concluded, "His Majesty has chosen to share his diagnosis to prevent speculation and in the hope it may assist public understanding for all those around the world who are affected by cancer."

Although the statement offered few details, the palace did reveal that when Charles underwent his prostate procedure, a separate issue of concern was detected, and "subsequent diagnostic tests have revealed the presence of a form of cancer." (The type of cancer has not been disclosed, in keeping with the palace's tight-lipped approach to

SAMIR HUSSEIN/GETTY IMAGES

'THE KING REMAINS WHOLLY POSITIVE ABOUT HIS TREATMENT'
—BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Support System
Queen Camilla (attending church with Charles on Feb. 4) will play an important role in supporting the King throughout his period of treatment while continuing with a full schedule of public duties.

medical conditions, but it is not prostate cancer, a spokesman confirmed.) "In time we might know," says Robert Hardman, author of *The Making of a King: King Charles III and the Modern Monarchy*, "but for now, there is a feeling that they have been pretty open."

The King has begun "regular treatments" and will postpone public duties, the palace statement added, noting that Charles "remains wholly positive about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible."

Those close to the family were taken aback by the announcement. "I was really shocked when I heard it," says a palace insider. Adds a source who knows him: "He has not looked himself. I put it down to grief—he'd had two deaths close together [his mother, Queen Elizabeth, in September 2022 and his father, Prince Philip, in April 2021]—but maybe he wasn't well, without realizing so. It would take it out of him."

The news comes just nine months into Charles's reign and only 17 months after the death of Queen Elizabeth at age 96. It also marks a particularly difficult start to the New Year for the royal family: On Jan. 16 Princess Kate, 42, underwent a 13-day hospitalization for abdominal surgery—prompting Prince William's temporary withdrawal from public duty to care for Kate and the couple's three children, Prince George, 10, Princess Charlotte, 8, and Prince Louis, 5. The potential for increased responsibilities for Charles's son and heir William, 41, once again highlighted the royal family's thinned ranks since the departure of his younger son Prince Harry, 39, and the removal of Charles's scandal-plagued brother Prince Andrew, 63.

But the news also sparked signs of unity in a family whose public fractures have played out on the world stage, most recently at the tense funeral for Queen Elizabeth in 2022. Harry was seen

MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES

William Carries On
While William (with Kate on Nov. 3) continues to support his family following Kate's abdominal surgery, he will "step up," says a source close to the royal household. "William will do his best, but the King will want to carry on with his duties as best he can."

arriving at the airport in Los Angeles on Feb. 5, rushing back home to be at his father's side, while Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and their children Prince Archie, 4, and Princess Lilibet, 2, remained home in Montecito, Calif. It would be the first time father and son have seen each other face-to-face since the King's coronation in May 2023. "That is good," says a source close to the royal household. "Hopefully [Harry] will bring the grandchildren at some point too, as that would be lovely for all of them."

A royal source says William is in regular contact with his father, who returned from Sandringham to his London home Clarence House on Feb. 5 to commence treatment as an outpatient. As Charles steps back from public engagements and Kate continues her monthslong recuperation, it's up to William (along with Camilla) to be the face of the monarchy. "It is hard with Kate being ill as well, but he will step up," says a source close to the royal household.

Although William may undertake some duties on behalf of his father, there are currently no plans to appoint counselors of state to act on King Charles's behalf. "He wouldn't want to put that pressure on William," says the source. "He has always wanted to save his children from having that pressure too early, and that will remain. Particularly as William has other priorities [with Kate]."

Charles will continue to receive his "red boxes," the monarch's daily delivery of official files, and process state documents during his treatment.

Royal *Crises*

HOW THE PALACE RESPONDS

King George VI
His lung cancer diagnosis was revealed only after his death in 1952.

Prince Philip
The nature of his 2013 abdominal surgery has never been disclosed.

Princess Margaret
The royal's 1985 lung operation was revealed post-surgery.

Queen Camilla
The announcement of her 2007 hysterectomy didn't specify the reason behind it.

Princess Kate
Her post-abdominal-surgery announcement didn't include any condition details.

It is also expected that the King will maintain his weekly audience with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, with appropriate adjustments made if his doctors advise minimizing in-person contact. "Yes, he's going to step back from public duties for a considerable time, but there will be plenty of work for him—it just won't necessarily be in a room with hundreds of people," says Hardman. Adds the palace insider: "He will want to get on with the job. But that will depend on what treatment he is having. It may be utterly draining on him. He will need a lot of support."

One of his main lifelines will be his wife of 18 years, Camilla. "She is his strength and stay, like [Prince Philip] was for the late Queen," says the palace insider. "She will be great. She will rally him, she will buoy him. She is amazing. She equips him to do the job he has to do."

●●●

Looking to the past, Hardman notes that Charles faced a gunman (unbeknownst to him or his security, armed with blank bullets) in Sydney in 1994, along with bomb threats during his investiture as Prince of Wales in 1969. "He's a fighter and has an inner steel," Hardman says. "He's philosophical and stoical and has a deeper faith than people appreciate." Adds the source close to the royal household: "He is a positive person and has a really healthy attitude to looking after his body. Cancer treatment has come a long, long way. He will come through." ●

A Son's Concern
Tensions remain between Harry (on Sept. 16) and his father, but they have maintained communication. "There is still a warmth," author Omid Scobie has said.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES; CORBIS/VCG/GETTY IMAGES; JOSHUA SAMMER/GETTY IMAGES; MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES; SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE; GEORGES DE KEERLE/GETTY IMAGES; SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE

HOW WE FOUND *forever*

FOR THESE FOUR COUPLES, 'HAPPILY EVER AFTER' IS JUST THE BEGINNING

By **WENDY GROSSMAN KANTOR** *and* **ALEXANDRA SCHONFELD**

Our Secret to a Happy Marriage: "Laughter," says Shore. "It means everything to be able to laugh with the ones you love."

REKINDLING THE *Flame* THANKS TO A REAL-LIFE PARENT TRAP

JULIE SHORE AND SCOTT GAEDE FOUND THE MAGIC AGAIN—WITH A HELPFUL PUSH FROM THEIR GIRLS

The decision to separate after 17 years of marriage wasn't one Julie Shore and Scott Gaede came to lightly. They share two daughters, Rachel and Caroline, and worried about the impact the split would have on them. "[But] problems were left unsolved and stacked on top of one another," recalls Shore, 54. "Until one day, it broke."

The couple finalized their divorce in 2018, living separate lives and dating other people, until an unconventional bit of pandemic quarantining and some well-intentioned scheming by their kids brought them back together. "Scott would visit [frequently], and that's what brought him back into my world," says Shore.

"Caroline and I realized it sooner than they did," says Rachel, 24, of her parents' reemerging spark. "I picked up on the energy. They were having a good time with each other. One night I was like, 'You have a crush on Dad.' A week later she came into my room and said, 'I think I have a crush on your dad.' I planted the seed."

Shore and Gaede remarried on Dec. 28, 2023, in Cincinnati, and Rachel immortalized the moment in a TikTok titled "Successful Parent Trap" (a reference to the 1961 and 1998 films), which now has more than 8.7 million views. "The divorce was just part of our relationship," says Gaede, 54. "If we didn't go through it, we would've never been able to get back together." To mark their reconciliation, he presented their daughters with rings made from Shore's first engagement ring.

"They [symbolize] the reunion of all four of us," explains Shore. "It's a reminder that forgiveness, gratitude and resilience matter."

Take Two
"Watching your parents fall in love is not something a lot of people get to experience," says Rachel (far left, with Shore, Gaede and Caroline, 20, in December).

LEANING ON *Love* AFTER TRAGEDY

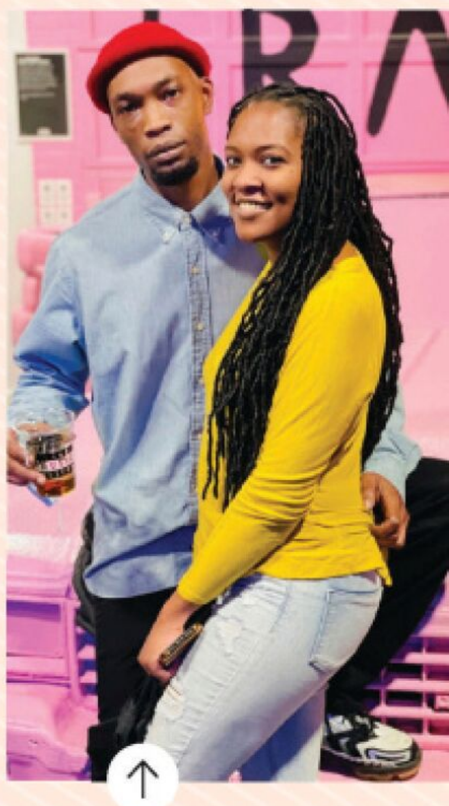
EVEN A DEVASTATING ACCIDENT COULDN'T STOP PRESTON AND TANESHA COBB FROM SAYING 'I DO'

Last summer, three weeks before her wedding, Tanesha Oglesby was boarding a flight en route to her bachelorette party when she got a heart-stopping call: Her fiancé, Preston Cobb, a machine operator for an engine valve manufacturer, had been badly burned in a chemical spill at work and was being airlifted to a hospital in Augusta, Ga. "I knew he wasn't okay and that he needed me," recalls the 33-year-old nonprofit manager. "I was trying not to go into panic mode."

In the ensuing days, as the extent of his injuries became clearer—burns to 37 percent of his body and the loss of his left leg, the toes on his right foot, eight fingers and a piece of his ear—Preston, 34, made an excruciating offer: "I said I wouldn't blame her if she didn't want to take on the task [of being married to me]. I knew it would be a long road. But she looked at me like I was crazy."

Not only did Tanesha stand by him, she insisted on not postponing the wedding—the couple exchanged vows on July 22 in the burn unit with some help from his nurses. "Tanesha makes life worth living," says Preston, who has undergone more than 40 surgeries to date and is looking forward to a larger ceremony with friends and family on their one-year anniversary.

"[The injuries] didn't change the person he is inside or the love he shows me every day," she says. "Everything we've gone through has just made us stronger."



In Sickness and in Health
"As long as we have love, we'll be okay," says Tanesha (above, with Preston in March 2022 and, top, on their wedding day at Doctors Hospital of Augusta).

FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY GAEDE FAMILY; CAROLINE EYER; COURTESY TANESHA COBB(2)

EXCHANGING *Vows* IN ALL 50 STATES

BUCKY AND SANDY DELANO HIT THE ROAD TO MAKE CHERISHED MEMORIES WITH NUPTIALS ACROSS THE NATION

For RV enthusiasts like the Delanos, open hearts and the open road go hand in hand. "I would tell her, 'I love you higher than any mountain,'" says Bucky, 71, a retired paper mill worker who met Sandy, 76, a former day care provider, in 2010. "She'd say, 'Well, I love *you* more than the entire United States.'"

Those sweet nothings sparked a major undertaking—a mission to exchange vows in every state, which they began in 2012, "four or five" stops per trip over the course of eight years, hitting landmarks like the St. Louis Arch, Cleveland's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Niagara Falls. Though the vows began before the two were legally married, they took care of that on June 19, 2013, in Hell, Mich. Why Hell? "We thought it would be funny," admits Bucky, laughing. "A marriage that starts in Hell has nowhere to go but up!"

Since finishing their trek in 2020, the duo have traded their home in Topsham, Maine, for full-time life on the road. They recently visited every state capital, and they're thinking next about national parks. "All those weddings made us feel really close," says Sandy, adding, "Living together in a 32-ft. camper has too."

Our Secret to a Happy Marriage: "Every obstacle we encounter, we just call it a new adventure," says Bucky.

Destination Weddings
The bride wore white, and the groom wore stars and stripes in South Dakota (right) and (inset, from top) Orlando, Forks, Wash., Atlantic City, Honolulu and Alaska's Denali National Park.

COURTESY BUCKY DELANO(6)

Moment of Truth
"She's the perfect person for me," says Valerie (inset, right) of Amanda. Right: Valerie and Amanda on their wedding day with Brooklyn and Jaxon.

Our Secret to a Happy Marriage: "Communication," says Amanda. "It makes a big difference to feel heard."

DOUBLING THE *Joy* WITH TWO SURPRISE PROPOSALS

SOULMATES AMANDA AND VALERIE SMITH ACCIDENTALLY REWROTE THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

When it comes to marriage proposals, timing is everything. Just ask Amanda and Valerie Smith.

Celebrating their three-year dating anniversary, the couple climbed the 177 steps of the Pensacola Lighthouse in Florida, stopping at the top to take in the views of the Gulf Coast. "I have a question," Amanda told Valerie while revealing a cushion cut diamond ring. Slightly out of breath, Valerie responded the only way she could: She produced a princess cut ring from her pocket and said, "I have a question too."

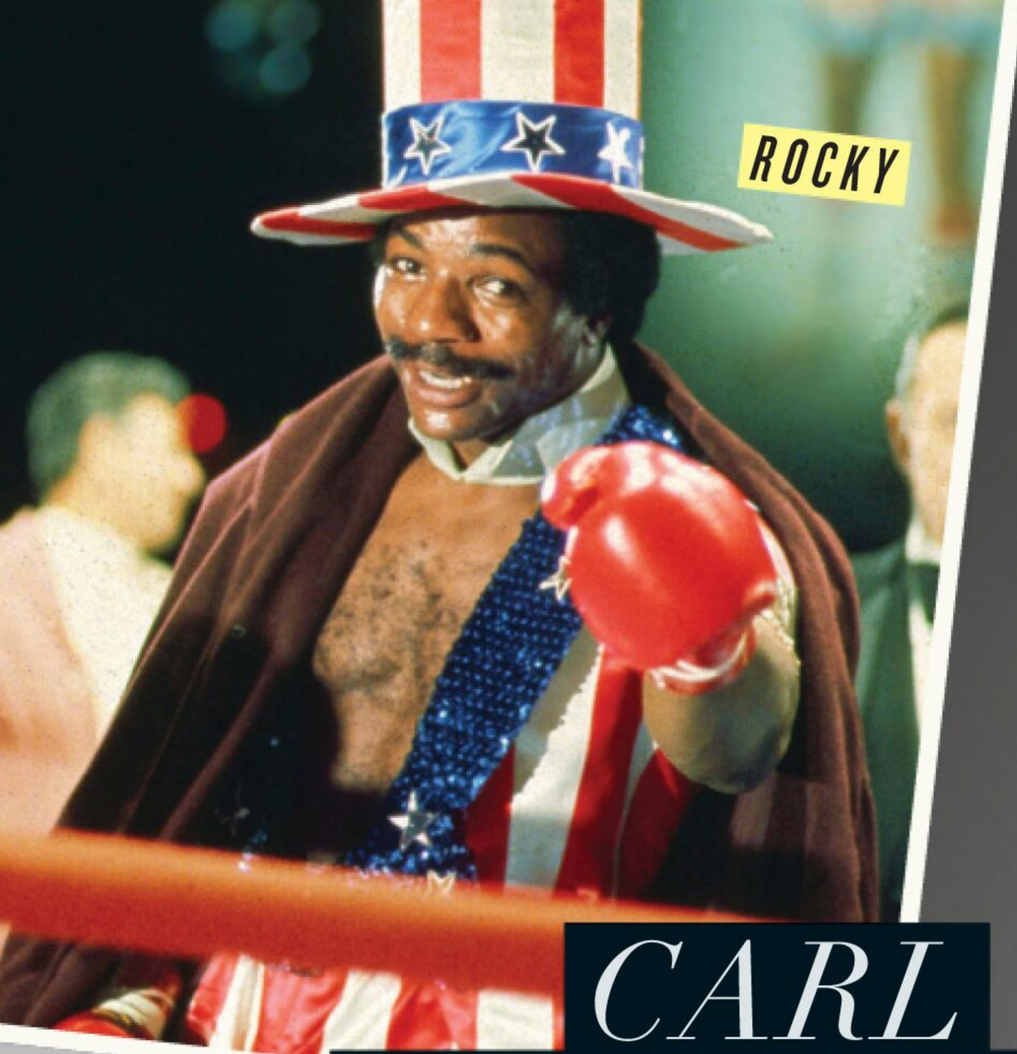
The happy coincidence was a total shock for both. "I didn't know what was coming," admits Valerie, 33, a project manager for a sign company. "I knew what *I* was doing, but I was so focused on trying not to drop the ring off the lighthouse that I was like, 'What's happening?!'" She adds: "We both said yes."

For the Smiths, the moment was an unmistakable sign. Both previously married, they were first introduced in 2018 by a mutual friend who suggested they could support each other through difficult divorces. A close friendship slowly became something more. They were married on Oct. 21, 2023, in Destin, Fla. "Amanda showed me there's so much more to life than being held in one spot and unhappy," says Valerie.

"We have the family I've always dreamed of," agrees Amanda, 39, a special education paraprofessional, who says Valerie is an excellent mother to Jaxon, 12, and Brooklyn, 9, Amanda's children from her previous marriage. "It looks different than I thought… but I love it." The couple, who reside in northeast Houston, have launched a photography business and hope to buy a farm and run a dog rescue.

"It's been a fairy tale from the beginning," says Amanda. "It's been so easy, it's almost scary." ●

FULLBRIGHT PHOTO; INSET: COURTESY AMANDA SMITH



CARL WEATHERS 1948-2024

Forever a Champ

THE FOOTBALL PLAYER TURNED HOLLYWOOD HEAVYWEIGHT FOUND FAME WITH *ROCKY* AND ROLES OUTSIDE THE BOXING RING

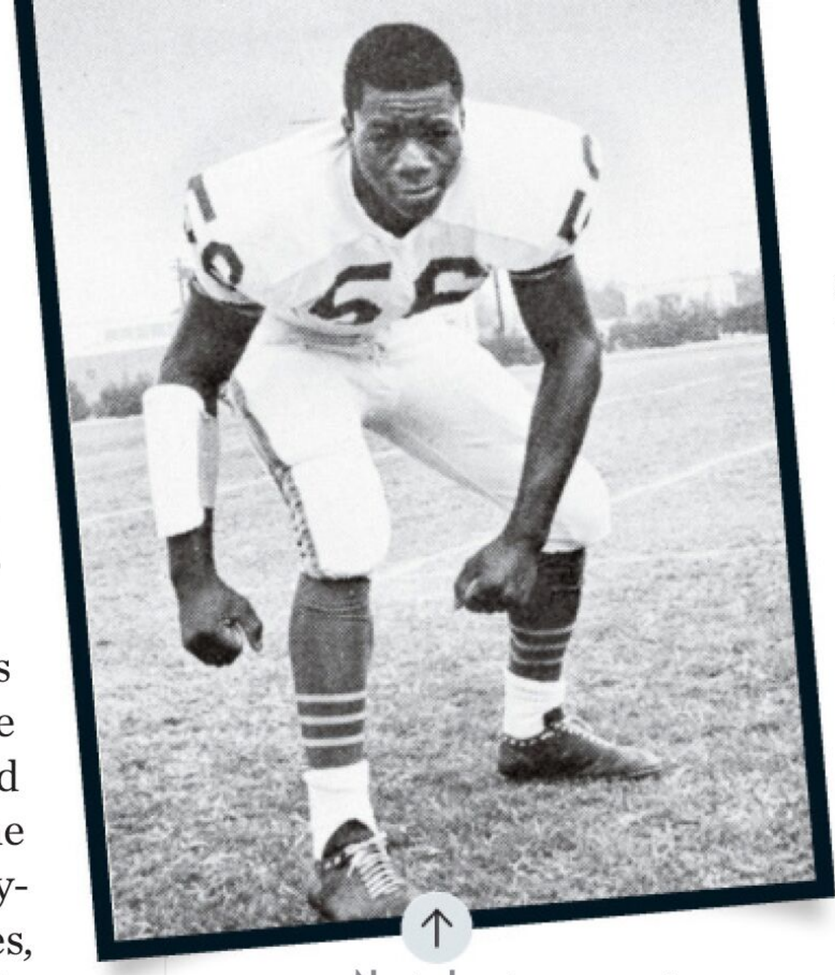
By **JULIE JORDAN**

Carl Weathers learned early on to roll with the punches. The former pro linebacker was auditioning for what would become his big break in Hollywood, as Apollo Creed, the nemesis of Sylvester Stallone's prizefighter in 1976's *Rocky*. Told he'd be reading with the film's screenwriter, Weathers didn't know Stallone was both writer and star. "At the end of it, I didn't feel like the scene had sailed, and they were quiet, and there was this moment of awkwardness—so I just blurted out, 'I could do a lot better if you got me a real actor

to work with,'" Weathers recalled to *The Hollywood Reporter* in 2015. Weathers was embarrassed, but Stallone apparently decided the insult was exactly what the character would do. "Sometimes," added Weathers, "the mistakes are the ones that get you the gig."

For the next four and a half decades the charismatic Weathers proved he was more than worthy of that second chance. He helped launch one of the most successful franchises in Hollywood with roles in four *Rocky* movies, starred in films such as 1987's *Predator* and most recently appeared in the Disney+ series *The Mandalorian*. He died on Feb. 1 at the age of 76, "peacefully in his sleep," his family said in a statement. "Carl was an exceptional human being who lived an extraordinary life. He was a beloved brother, father, grandfather, partner and friend." Married and divorced three times, Weathers, who was private about his personal life, had two children, Jason and Matthew. Adam Sandler worked with Weathers on the 1996 golf comedy *Happy Gilmore* and paid tribute to the actor on Instagram, calling him "a true great man. Great dad. Great actor. Great athlete," he wrote. "Smart as hell. Loyal as hell. Funny as hell. Loved his sons more than anything.... Carl will always be known as a true legend."

Weathers, who was born on Jan. 14, 1948, in New Orleans, first found his love of acting through performing in plays in elementary school. But his passion for football in high school led him to play defensive end for San Diego State University. Graduating with a degree in theater arts, he signed on as an undrafted linebacker for the Oakland Raiders in 1970 before being cut from the team the next year by then coach John Madden, who told him he was too sensitive. "It kind of put a chip on my shoulder... because as a football player, the last thing you want to hear is that you're too sensitive," Weathers told *Sports Illustrated* last year. "On the other hand, without that sensitivity, how could I be an actor of any worth, really?"

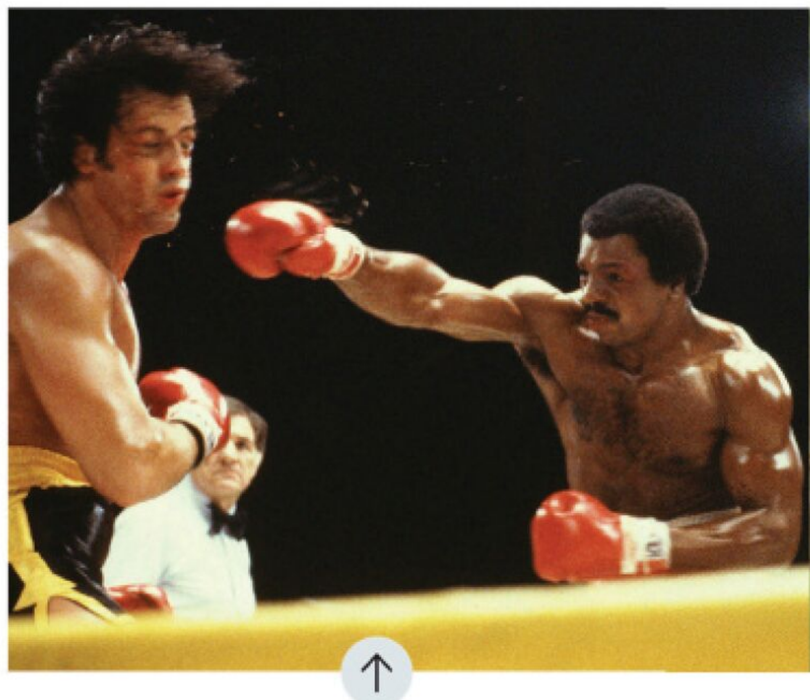


Not Just a Jock
As a teen football star in Long Beach, Calif., Weathers also had dreams of becoming an actor.

'He was magic, and I was so fortunate to be part of his life'
– SYLVESTER STALLONE

He officially retired from football in 1974 and moved to L.A. to try his hand in Hollywood full-time. After bit parts in film and television, Weathers won his role as Creed and perfected his jabs as Rocky's foe, then trainer, until his character was killed in *Rocky IV* in 1985. Weathers worried audiences would only think of him as his character but found further fame in hits like 1988's *Action Jackson* and even parodied himself on the TV series *Arrested Development*. The actor had most recently starred as bounty-hunter boss Greef Karga on the Star Wars series *The Mandalorian*, which earned him an Emmy nomination in 2021 (he also directed episodes in seasons 2 and 3). "He was a hero from my childhood who I was lucky enough to meet and then had the amazing good fortune to work with," wrote series creator Jon Favreau in a statement. "He had the energy and curiosity of a young man paired with the wisdom that his rich life and career afforded him." Stallone couldn't agree more. "My life was forever changed for the better the day I met Carl Weathers," the actor wrote in an Instagram post. "Rest in power and [keep] punching." ●

MAKING HIS MARK



Rocky II
Weathers "was absolutely brilliant," said Stallone. "His voice, his size, his power, his athletic ability, but more importantly, his heart."

Happy Gilmore
"So much fun to be around always," Sandler wrote of Weathers, who played a pro golfer who had lost his hand in an alligator attack.

The Mandalorian
His performance earned him an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for season 2.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MOVIESTORE/SHUTTERSTOCK; JENNY GAGE + TOM BETTERTON; SETH POPPEL/YEARBOOK LIBRARY; ALAMY; UNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES; UNITED ARTISTS/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK

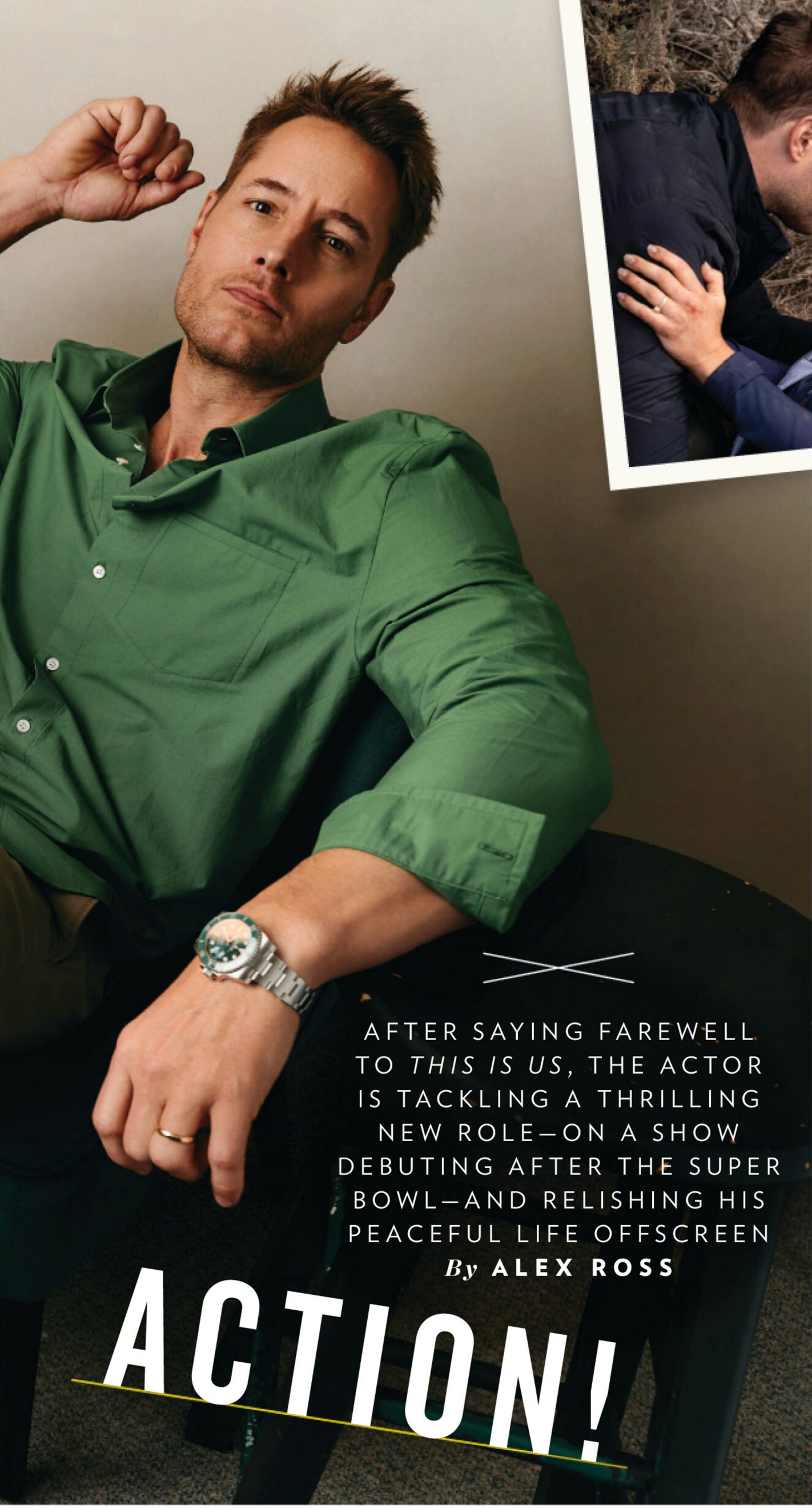
JUSTIN HARTLEY

GETTING IN ON THE

Justin Hartley is focused on the simple things. Following an emotionally intense six-season run on *This Is Us*, these days the star prefers road trips (with dog Paisley in the back) and cozy nights in with his wife, actress Sofia Pernas, whom he first met when they were costars on *The Young and the Restless* and married nearly three years ago. "We love staying home. We do everything together," says Hartley, 47, whose new action-packed CBS show *Tracker* premieres after the Super Bowl on Feb. 11.

FOREVER THE 'BIG THREE'

Hartley (right) says he "enjoyed every minute" of *This Is Us* alongside Sterling K. Brown (left) and Chrissy Metz (center), who played his siblings. "I stay in touch with all those guys," he says. "We always knew that it was going to end after six [seasons]. We got the benefit of saying that long goodbye."



SAVING THE DAY "This guy's got it all figured out," says Hartley of his tough *Tracker* character (rescuing a woman played by Ashley Nicole Roxburgh).

AFTER SAYING FAREWELL TO *THIS IS US*, THE ACTOR IS TACKLING A THRILLING NEW ROLE—ON A SHOW DEBUTING AFTER THE SUPER BOWL—AND RELISHING HIS PEACEFUL LIFE OFFSCREEN

By **ALEX ROSS**

ACTION!

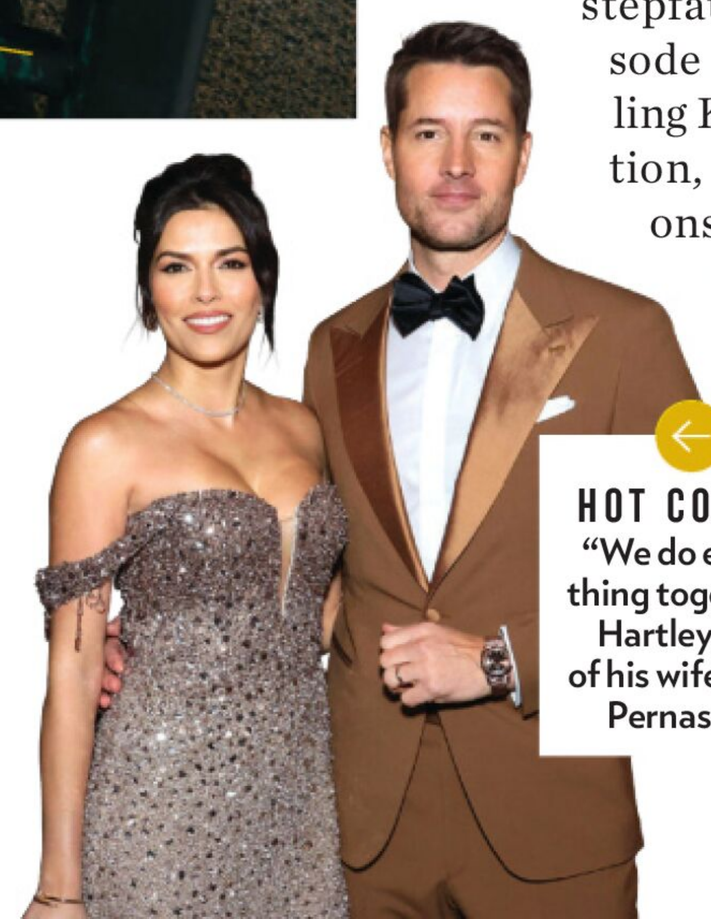
On *Tracker* he stars as a restless bounty hunter meets private eye, but off-camera the TV star prefers to keep a low profile. "There's no drama, there's no stress. I don't like drama out there," he says, gesturing to the ether. (He weathered a public divorce from ex Chrishell Stause five years ago.) "I like drama onscreen." He's also acutely aware of how quickly time can pass: When his daughter Isabella (with ex-wife Lindsay Korman), 19, visits, Hartley is struck by the memory of watching her tie her shoes for the first time. "It went by like *that*," he says. "You learn to savor every moment and not waste moments on things that just don't matter."

Raised in Illinois, Hartley got his acting start in college doing improv. "I took this children's literature class, and I was like, 'Well, this is an easy A.' And it ended up being a performance class. It was thrilling. I came alive," says Hartley, who grew up a shy, distracted student and "a sports nut. If there was a sport, I loved to play it." After graduating, Hartley moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting full-time. "I had no talent, no prospects, no friends, and I had no idea what I was doing," he says. An internship at a casting office inspired him to go back to school to hone his craft before a role on the soap opera *Passions* began opening doors. "I got lucky and got a job," he says simply.

Later he built his résumé with roles on shows such as *Revenge* and *Smallville*. Widespread fame came knocking in 2016 after Hartley was cast on NBC's hit drama *This Is Us* as Kevin Pearson, one of three siblings in a family touched by tragedy. It wrapped in 2022. "I will always bring parts of Kevin with me. He was a complete mess sometimes [but also] funny, insecure and sensitive," Hartley says. "I would've done that show for 100 years."

The show may be over, but the friendships remain: Jon Huertas, who played Kevin's stepfather Miguel, will direct an episode of *Tracker*, and following Sterling K. Brown's recent Oscar nomination, Mandy Moore sent her former onscreen sons a "ridiculous" group video message in which "she might've been making fun of us," Hartley says, smiling. "I love them."

This new chapter? He's all in. "It took me a long time to get here," he says, "and I'm just completely at peace." ●



HOT COUPLE "We do everything together," Hartley says of his wife, Sofia Pernas, 34.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NOAH ASANIAS; MICHAEL COURTNEY/CBS/GETTY IMAGES; CHELSEA LAUREN/SHUTTERSTOCK; RON BATZDORFF/NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES

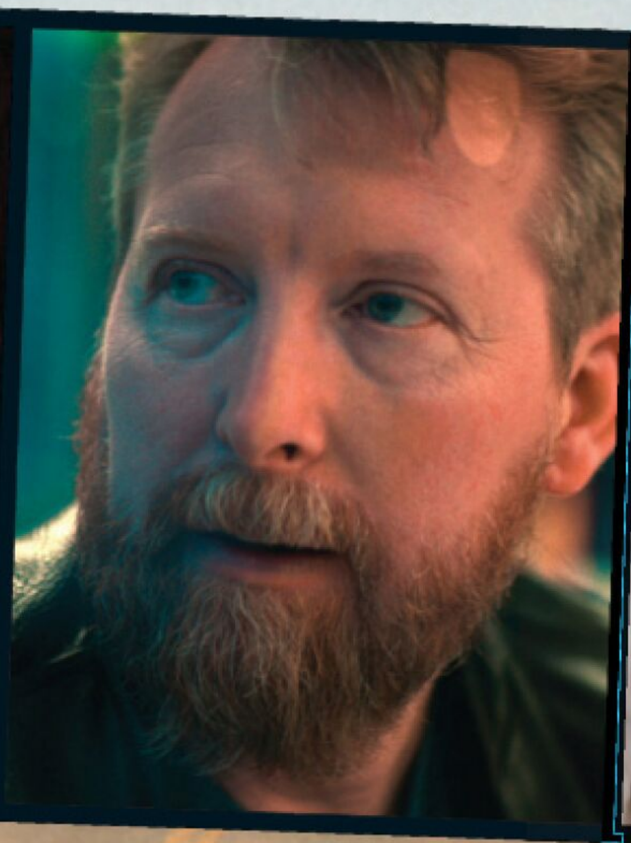
Real-Life Fatal Attraction

KILLER OB

(ROAD): KROUPA/NETFLIX; (GOLYAR): NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

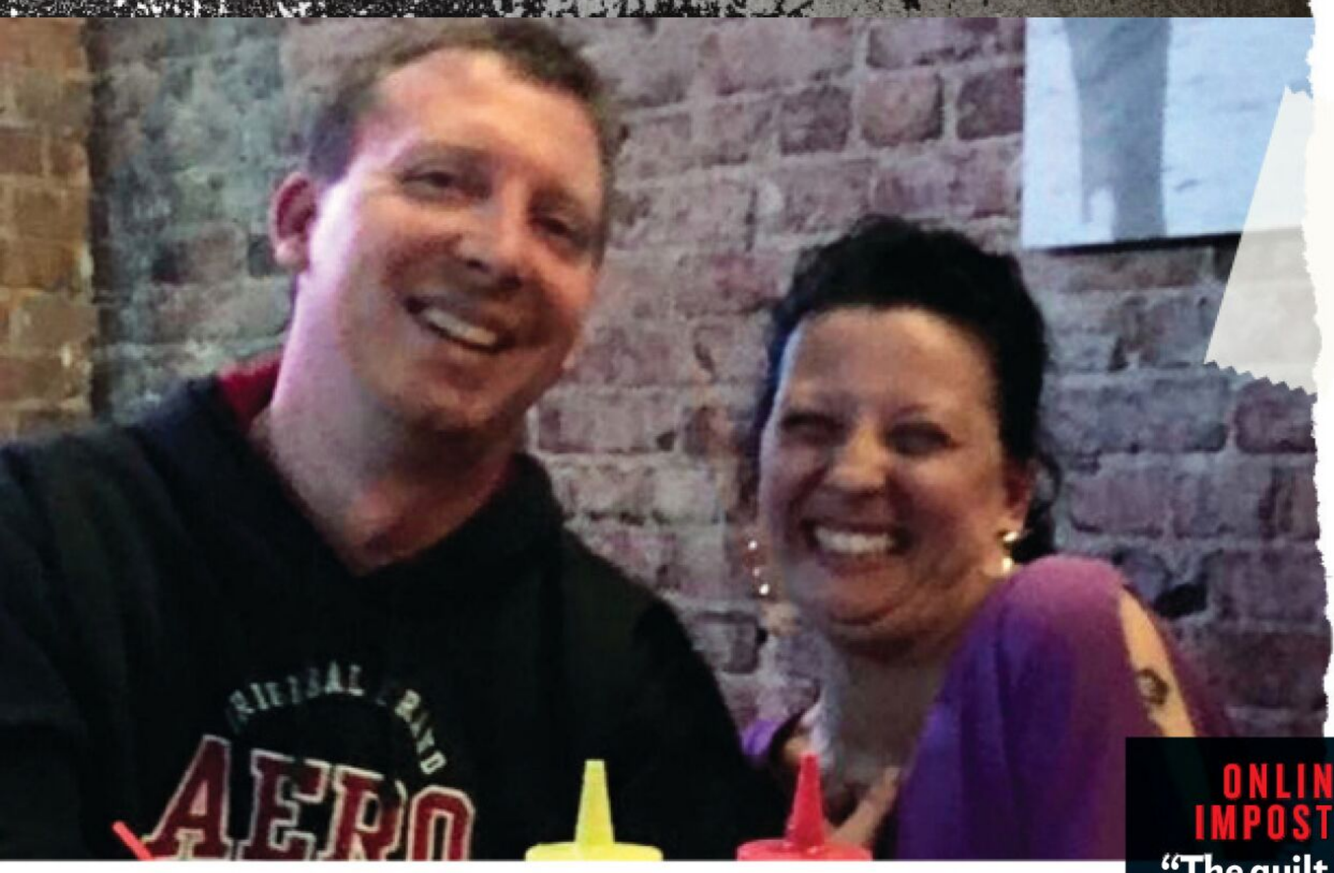
SESSION

DAVE KROUPA MET CARI FARVER IN OMAHA, AND THEY DATED BRIEFLY. THEN HE THOUGHT SHE WAS TO BLAME FOR STALKING HIM. THE TRUE CULPRIT WAS ALSO A MURDERER *By* **CORIN CESARIC**



DATING TURNED DEADLY Customer Cari Farver (left) met auto repair shop manager Dave Kroupa (center) at his work when he was already seeing Shanna "Liz" Golyar (right) in 2012. Golyar killed rival Farver—and impersonated her as Kroupa's stalker. "I think deep down, Liz is just evil and cold," says Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jim Doty.

Leaving for work around 6:30 a.m. on a chilly fall morning in 2012, Omaha auto repair shop manager Dave Kroupa said goodbye to Cari Farver, a single mother he had been dating for two weeks. Farver, who planned to head to work at a telecommunications company, had made it clear that she wasn't looking for a serious relationship. So later that morning when Kroupa received a text message from her—"Do you want to move in together now?"—it came as a puzzling surprise. "I was like, 'What the hell?'" recalls Kroupa, 47, who was busy at work and wrote a dismissive reply. That apparently uncorked a well of anger in Farver,



ONLINE IMPOSTOR **"The guilt Dave carries over not seeing through Liz Golyar [together in Nebraska]—he hasn't dealt with that," says Kroupa's girlfriend Margie Hover.**

who replied: "I hate you." "You ruined my life." "I never want to see you again."

"All morning my text messages were pinging, pinging, pinging, and it's all this nasty stuff," says Kroupa, who was annoyed but also relieved to have discovered so quickly that Farver—whom he would never see again—was not the woman for him. "I'm thinking, 'Wow, I dodged a bullet.'"

But nothing could have been further from the truth. Over the next four years Kroupa became the target of a campaign of terror. He received more than 18,000 intimidating emails and some 50,000 texts from accounts associated with Farver. He also was deluged with phone calls and threats against his on-again, off-again lover Shanna "Liz" Golyar as well as his former partner Amy Flora and the two children they share. The harassment resulted in vandalism, burglary, arson—and a murder. Kroupa moved out of state and changed his phone number and email address but could not escape his stalker until police made a shocking arrest in 2016. Now Kroupa is telling his story in the new Netflix documentary *Lover, Stalker, Killer,* premiering Feb. 9. "She ruined my life," he says, "as much as you can without actually killing me."

In early 2012 Kroupa moved from Wisconsin to Nebraska after getting out of a long-term relationship and decided to give online dating a try. Within days he met Golyar, a housekeeper who was also recently single and the mother of two children close in age to Kroupa's. They dated on and off for about six months, Kroupa says, until Cari Farver, a customer at the garage where he worked, accepted his invitation to have a drink with him. "There was definitely a spark there," says Kroupa. But the night of their first date, as Kroupa and Farver made their way back to his apartment after drinks, Farver passed Golyar, who had stopped by Kroupa's place unexpectedly, as she was leaving the apartment.

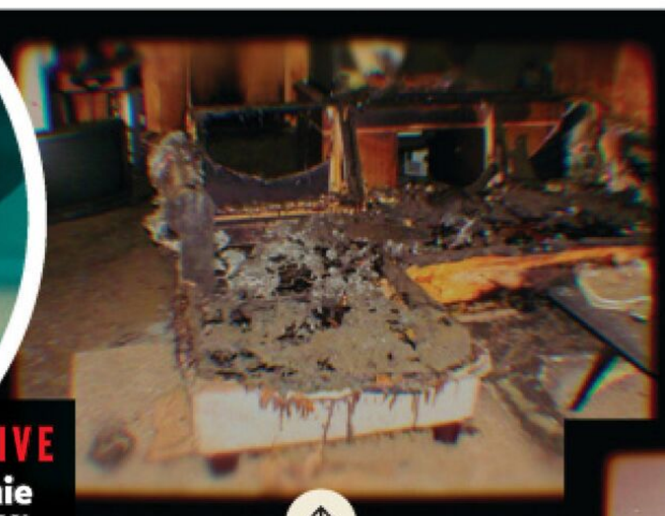
That encounter would radically change the course of three lives. Farver was reported missing to police by her family, having vanished without a trace, leaving her bank accounts untouched and her teenage son Max in her mother's care. But Farver's harassment campaign against Kroupa continued—resulting in thousands of hang-up calls to his work and home. Soon Golyar, whom Kroupa continued to date, was also receiving frightening messages. "We'd be hanging out on a Saturday, and both of our emails would start blowing up at the same time," says Kroupa.

Eventually those threats of violence turned

(COUPLE, INVESTIGATOR, ARSON, GRAFFITI, DISC, KROUPA) NETFLIX(6); (CAR SEAT) PTTAWATAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; (GOLYAR) RYAN SODERLIN/ OMAHA WORLD-HERALD; (MUG SHOT) NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES/PCSO; (SPOTS) SHUTTERSTOCK; (TEXTURE) GETTY IMAGES

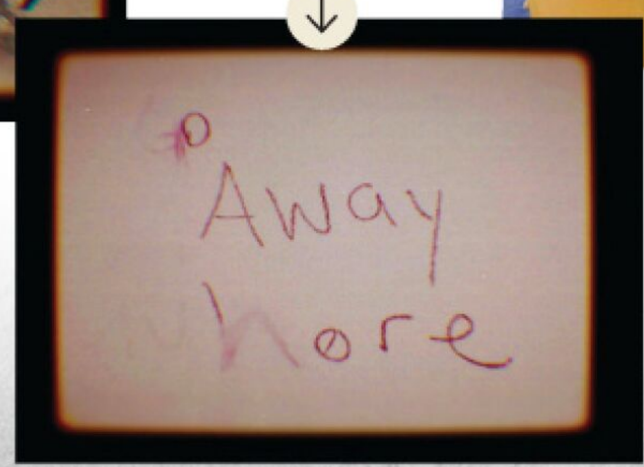
EVIDENCE FROM THE INVESTIGATION

THE DETECTIVE **Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jim Doty was on the law enforcement team that reopened the cold case in 2015 and solved it.**



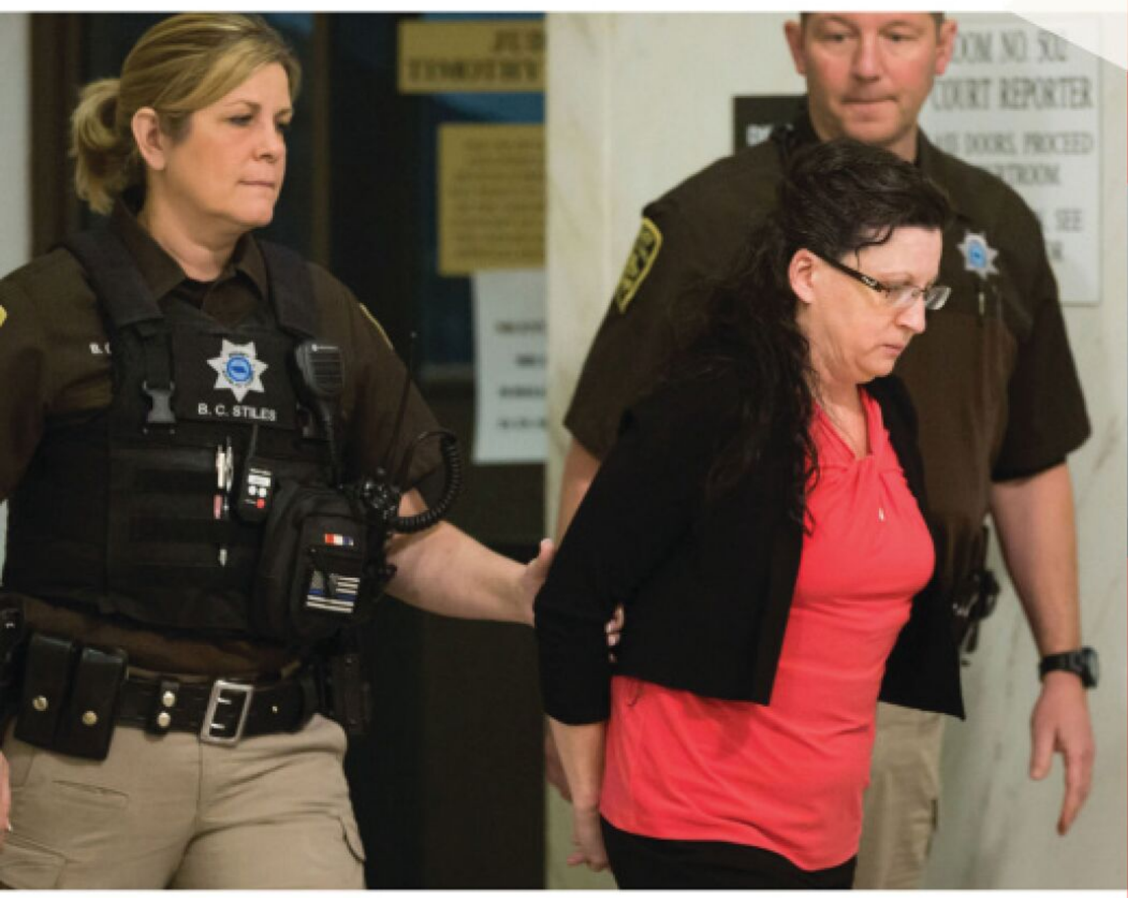
LETHAL INFERNO A search of the charred remains of Liz Golyar's home after the stalker threatened violence found pets that had been killed in the fire.

VANDALIZED PROPERTY Kroupa's stalker left menacing messages scrawled on the walls of his home.



THE VICTIM'S SUV Initially searched in 2013, Cari Farver's SUV was examined again. Dried blood belonging to Farver was found underneath a seat cover.

TELLTALE MEMORY CARD Detectives recovered deleted photos from a storage disk, including one of a woman's foot with a tattoo like Farver had.



BEHIND BARS Golyar (above, in a mug shot; left, at the Douglas County courthouse in Omaha on May 10, 2017) was convicted of first-degree murder and second-degree arson for setting her own house on fire.

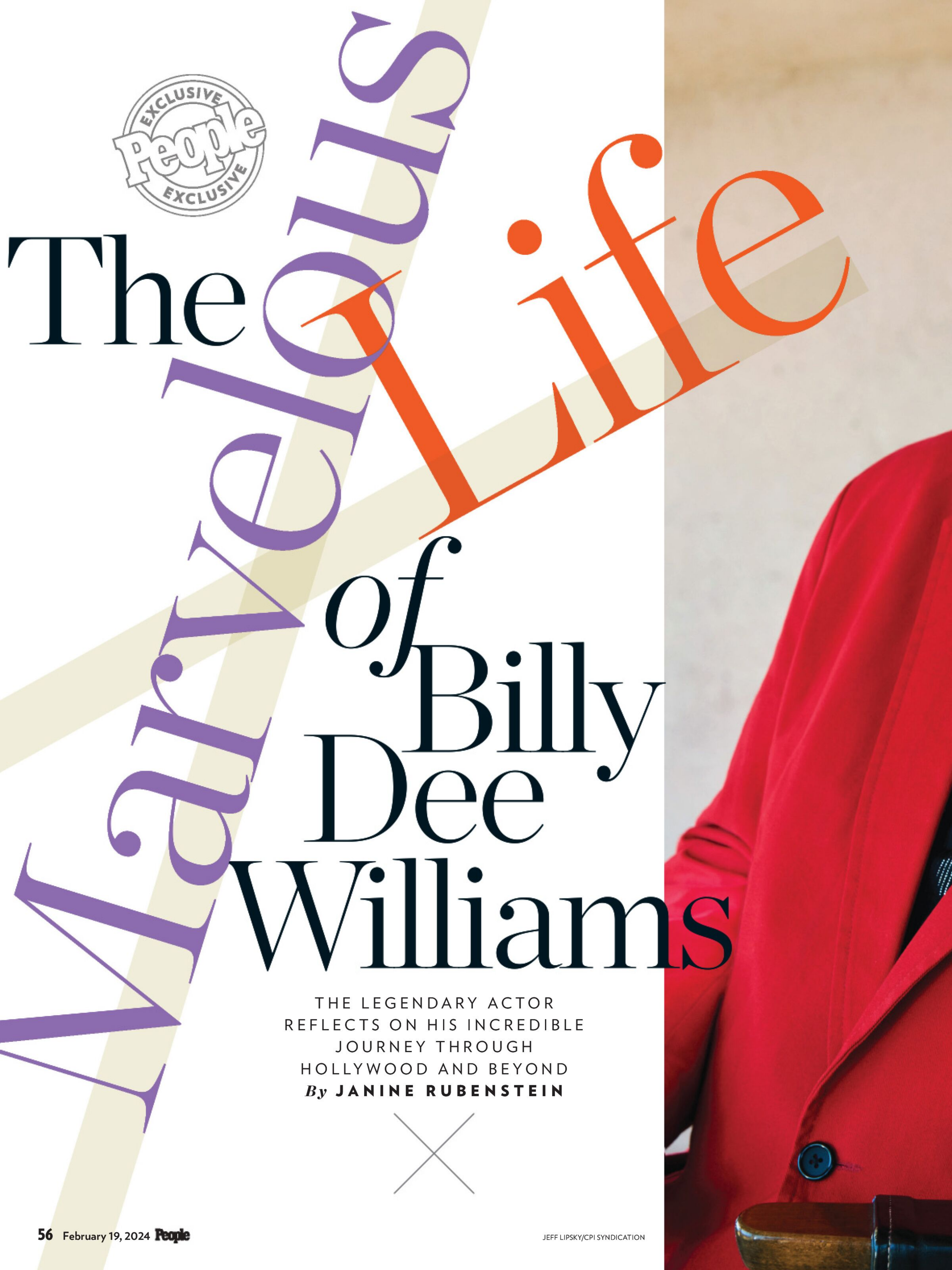
real. In late 2012 someone claiming to be Farver began vandalizing cars and property owned by Kroupa and Golyar, and in 2013 Golyar's house was burned down, killing her pet dogs, a cat and a snake. Frightened for his safety, Kroupa, whose apartment had been mysteriously burgled that year, moved away for a fresh start in a new city, but after he posted his photo on a dating website, his tormentor found him, and the harassment continued. Police were unable to pinpoint the source of the messages, despite the fact that the texts made it clear the person sending them was often within sight of Kroupa, Golyar, his former partner Flora and their two children. Kroupa believed the case had gone cold—but the dangerous behavior escalated. In 2015 Golyar reported to police she had been shot in the leg by the stalker—whom she now identified as Flora.

Meanwhile, a new team of detectives at Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office had reopened the case and now had reasons to doubt Golyar's claims. Taking a fresh look at emails and texts seemingly sent by Farver, a digital forensic specialist traced thousands of the messages to a single IP address linked to a surprising source: Liz Golyar. Armed with a slew of search warrants, investigators found communications software that allowed her to mask her identity and to schedule texts and emails in advance in an effort to impersonate Farver. Even more troubling was the grisly evidence they unearthed (see box) pointing to Golyar's involvement in the sudden disappearance—and murder—of Farver, her romantic rival.

Detectives told Kroupa that Golyar was responsible for the years of harassment and for murdering Farver. Her body was never found, but authorities believe Farver was killed within days of the 2012 fateful encounter in Kroupa's apartment building. "Up till then, every time Cari's name came up I wanted to throw up," says Kroupa. "Then to learn that she's not only not at fault, but she's been murdered? And Liz, the person who I leaned on, was responsible for killing Cari? It's still hard to even process."

Golyar was convicted of murder and arson at trial in 2017 and sentenced to life without parole. According to Kroupa's current girlfriend Margie Hover, who lives with him in Nebraska, it was only on a recent trip to California that she noticed Kroupa was finally able to relax. "He said, 'I don't have to be looking over my shoulder,' " she says. Still, Kroupa closely guards his phone number and email address. "I don't mind watching a movie with a terrible twist," he says, "but I never want that in my life again." ●

'IT'S NOT HARD TO SEE WHY I DON'T TRUST ANYBODY ANYMORE AND KEEP MY WALLS UP' – DAVE KROUPA



EXCLUSIVE People EXCLUSIVE

The Many Lives of Billy Dee Williams

THE LEGENDARY ACTOR REFLECTS ON HIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY THROUGH HOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND

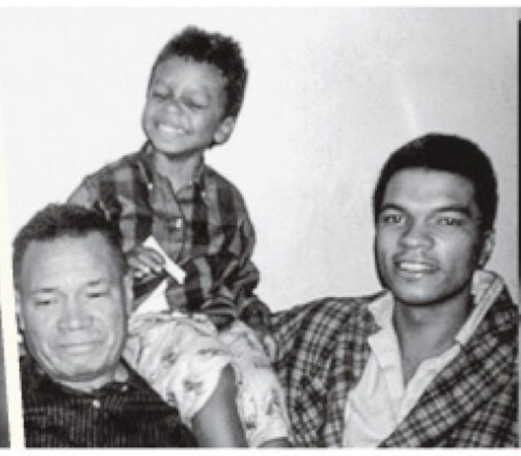
By **JANINE RUBENSTEIN**

JEFF LIPSKY/CPI SYNDICATION

Billy Dee Williams can't figure out how his life has worked out so well. "I'm always chuckling about myself. I think much of my life is dictated by chance and happenstance," says the actor, 86. "When I was a kid, I read *Catcher in the Rye*, and with the main character I said, 'That's me, just kind of bumbling through everything.' There were moments when I wanted to go right, and something would say, 'No Billy, go left.' I guess I learned to trust my instincts."

Those instincts led him on a fantastic journey, from growing up as a child of the Harlem Renaissance to carving out a decades-long Hollywood career. Williams recently decided it's time to tell his own Holden Caulfield-esque story in his new memoir *What Have We Here?*, named after a quote taken from one of his most iconic roles, as the endearing, beguiling Lando Calrissian in the *Star Wars* franchise (see sidebar). "When I got the cape [Lando wears in the film], I said, 'This is fantastic!'" recalls Williams. "That's the kind of stuff I like to fool around with. I don't take myself too seriously."

The thrice-married father of two and grandfather of two



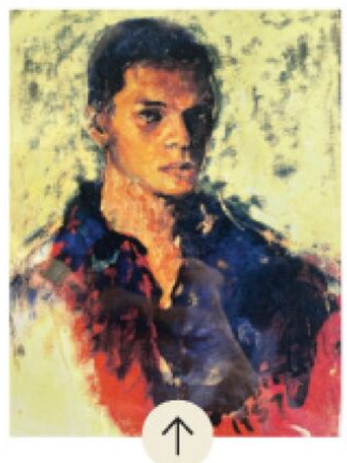
THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

The star with his mother, Loretta, in 1955 (left); with his father, William, and son Corey in 1969 (center); and with baby daughter Hanako in 1973. "I come [from] very low-key, very nice, classy people," he says of his family. "All of the things I've had are due to my upbringing."

admits that, given his perennial heartthrob status that came with romantic roles in films like 1975's *Mahogany*, it's also been hard staying serious about any one woman in his life. "I'm always falling in love," he says. He thinks it all makes for a good read: "I've led a crazy life. At this stage I'm thinking about legacy, so I figured I need to talk about a few things that might interest a few people."

The son of Loretta, an elevator operator, and William December, a maintenance man, Williams says between him and his twin sister, also named Loretta, he was always the silly one. "I used to tell my sister, 'You're so smart, and I'm so stupid.' She'd say, 'No, you're not, you just have your head in the clouds.'" Although he struggled in school, Williams was a natural artist who earned a scholarship to New York's National Academy of Fine Arts and Design. But he had already developed a love of acting after appearing in the Broadway play *The Firebrand of Florence* as a young child. "I soon had a dilemma," he writes, "whether to pursue art or acting."

He followed his heart—and the money—and became a movie star with two roles opposite Diana Ross. "*Lady Sings the Blues* [the 1972 Billie Holiday biopic] and *Mahogany* really turned my whole life around as far as being a romantic figure," he says. As for rumors of an affair with Ross at the time, he says, "We never had anything. But I loved kissing her onscreen." He also became one of Hollywood's first Black heartthrobs. "I think I'm the first little brown boy to come along and project that kind of persona, which has been a lot of fun," he says.



A True Artist
"When I was at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, I got ill and decided to do a self-portrait because I thought this was the end," he says. "I'm a little bit strange."

It's a persona that lent itself well to his charismatic *Star Wars* role and also bears out in his personal life. Asked what type of husband he is, he quips, "A philanderer! I've been philandering my whole life." Married to Audrey Sellers from 1959 to 1963, Marlene Clark from 1968 to 1971 and Teruko Nakagami in 1972, from whom he separated in 1993 while remaining legally married to her, Williams is upfront about his romantic history. "I've always been intrigued by strong women, but obviously that's gotten me in trouble," he says, adding, "I think I used to be a good husband, once upon a time. I value family. When my son [Corey, 63, with Sellers] was born, I thought that was the greatest thing in the whole world. And my daughter [Hanako, 50] from my third marriage was a gift."

But Williams is no ordinary Hollywood alpha male. In 2019 he sparked speculation around his gender identity and sexuality after revealing that he sees himself as "feminine as well as masculine" in an *Esquire* interview. Today, he says, "I prefer women, but I've spent a lot of my life with gay people. [The late celebrated Black writer] James Baldwin, who was gay, was my dearest friend." In his memoir he also writes of a time Marlon Brando propositioned him at a party, an offer that Williams says he graciously declined. "I'm not into guys, but I had no qualms with that kind of stuff. Whatever you are, that's who you are. I'm more interested in meeting interesting people."

These days Williams, who recently appeared on *And Just Like That…*, prefers to spend his downtime doing just that. "I spend a lot of time complimenting young people who are struggling, trying to figure out life." He's not sure yet, himself. "I hope I figure it out before I drop dead," he says. "I'm still searching, but I think I'm almost there." ●

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: LUCASFILM/FOX/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; STEVE SCHAPIRO/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES; ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES/DISNEY GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY BILLY DEE WILLIAMS(4)

A DAZZLING CAREER

Brian's Song, 1971
The TV drama earned Williams (with, from left, Judy Pace, Shelley Fabares and James Caan) an Emmy nod.

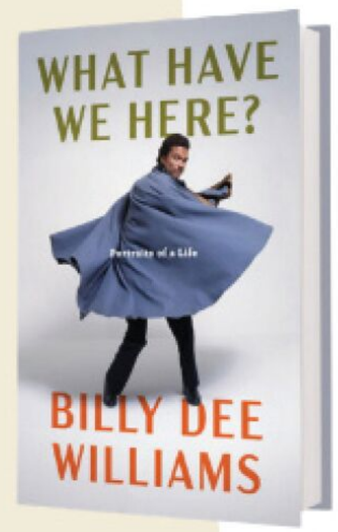
Mahogany, 1975
The sexy role opposite superstar Diana Ross "put me on the map," says Williams. "I never let it go to my head."

Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back, 1980
Williams (with Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford) wanted to make Lando "bigger than life, romantic but dubious."

'Life is a cosmic experience I'm still trying to process'
– BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

Much Ado About Lando

In his new memoir the Star Wars *alum writes about joining the hit franchise and how, for a time, he fell out of favor with fans for appearing to kill Han Solo at the end of 1980's* Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back.



Nearly everywhere I went, fans harangued me for betraying Han Solo. I got dirty looks on airplanes. "How could you?" A flight attendant scolded. At the grocery store, a man shopping with his teenage son looked at me with disgust. "I should put you in the deep freeze," he said, as his son nodded in agreement. The harshest reaction came on the playground at my daughter's school. In the afternoon, as I waited in the courtyard to pick her [up], parents scowled at me. Then, after the bell rang, I got the same treatment from [my daughter] Hanako's friends. "Mr. Williams, you sold out Han Solo. Why'd you do that? Now Han Solo is dead."

It was laughable until it wasn't—until I sensed a Black-White thing might be brewing. That's when I took a step back, put up my hands, and told people to wait a minute before they criticized me any further. I guess I had done a good job playing Lando as a dubious character. But Lando wasn't a bad guy, I explained. Although it looked like he'd betrayed his best friend, the truth was that Lando was caught in the middle of a situation between Han Solo and Darth Vader. He had to hold onto his own situation and buy time without contributing to the complete demise of his friend.

It was an intricate, carefully choreographed scene, with Lando seeming to give up Han, and Leia professing her love for the Rebel Alliance hero, who, despite the dire circumstances, calmly responds to her heartfelt admission by famously saying, "I know." What only a very few people knew and the rest of us learned much later was that George created this amazing cliffhanger because Harrison had signed a contract only for the original and its sequel, and he wasn't sure if he wanted to play Han Solo again. George didn't want to kill him off in case he did return. So Han was put in a deep freeze—and I was the designated bad guy.

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS People

BILLY DEE'S PEOPLE DEBUT!

"The joy I had being a part of this movie is evident in my smile," says Williams of gracing the cover of *People* for the first time alongside his *Star Wars* family in 1980. "It's the biggest on the cover, and it's 100 percent genuine."

The Jacksons: An American Dream, 1992
The star (with Jason Weaver) played real-life pal Berry Gordy in the miniseries.

Dancing With the Stars, 2014
"That almost killed me!" he says of the grueling reality show.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: ADAM TAYLOR/DISNEY GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT; SHAYAN ASGHARNIA/AUGUST

SUPER BOWL LVIII

LAS VEGAS SHOWDOWN!

THE CHIEFS VS. THE 49ERS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD AND THE ONES BEHIND THE SCENES

By LIZZIE HYMAN

The Star Players

BROCK PURDY
AGE: 24
49ers Quarterback
Once named "Mr. Irrelevant" for being the final pick of the 2022 NFL Draft, the Arizona native threw a staggering 31 touchdowns this season.

...Ready for It?
With 38.5 million fans setting an all-time viewership record for postseason games in 2023, this year's Super Bowl is poised to top last year's matchup as the most-watched event in television history. For die-hard fans and Swiftie-come-latelies, here's a guide to the players to watch and the people who support them when the San Francisco 49ers take on the Kansas City Chiefs in Las Vegas on Feb. 11. The pressure is on both teams, but as Travis Kelce recently said, it's all about "just having fun out there." Game on!

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY
AGE: 27
49ers Running Back
The Colorado-born Stanford alum joined the 49ers in 2022—following his dad, Ed, and brother Max, who both played for San Francisco.

TRAVIS KELCE
AGE: 34
Chiefs Tight End
Already a two-time Super Bowl champ, he wears No. 87 for the year his brother, newly retired Philadelphia Eagle Jason Kelce, was born.

PATRICK MAHOMES
AGE: 28
Chiefs Quarterback
He has thrown 4,183 total yards and 27 touchdowns this season. For luck, he wears a pair of red underwear (a gift from his wife) during every game.

SAWEETIE
The California-born rapper just released the 49ers' new anthem, called "Do It for the Bay."

The Love Stories

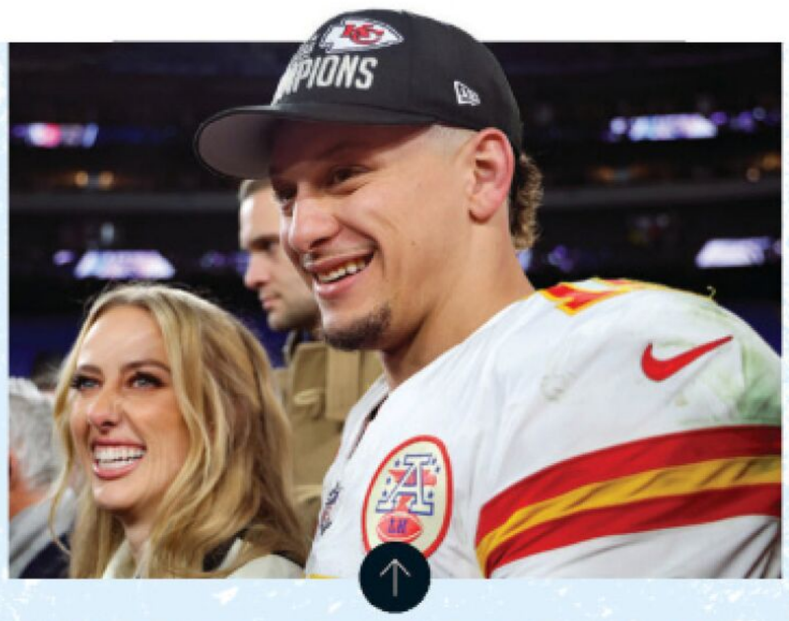
THESE COUPLES HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN—ON AND OFF THE FIELD

TRAVIS KELCE & TAYLOR SWIFT

The 14-time Grammy winner, 34, has attended 12 Chiefs games since the couple began dating. With a show in Tokyo the night before the Super Bowl, will she make it to Vegas for kickoff?

BROCK PURDY & JENNA BRANDT

They met at Iowa State University—where Brandt was a competitive volleyball player—and got engaged in July. "Here's to forever babe," the quarterback wrote to his fiancée on Instagram.

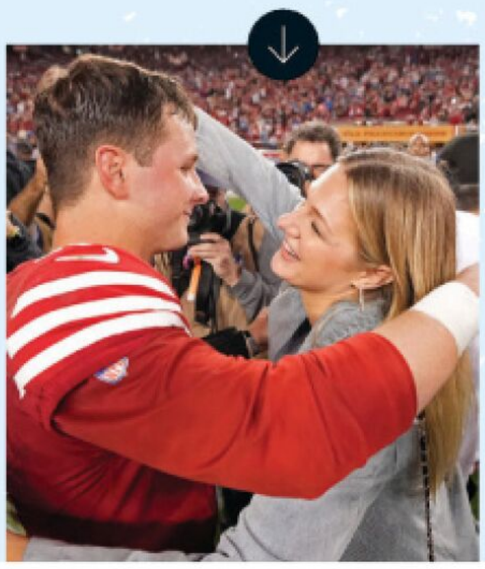


BRITTANY & PATRICK MAHOMES

Sweethearts at Whitehouse High School in Texas, they wed in 2022 and have two kids. At the 2023 ESPYS, Patrick thanked his family for "making me the man that I am."

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY & OLIVIA CULPO

They've been together since 2019 and got engaged last April. The 31-year-old former Miss Universe gifted McCaffrey's family a viewing suite for the Super Bowl.



The Performances

Country music legend Reba McEntire will sing the national anthem, while Usher takes center stage for the halftime show. The "My Boo" singer plans to pay homage to Black artists of the past. "I didn't start where I am now," he said.

The Parents

THEY'VE BEEN THERE CHEERING EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

RANDI MAHOMES

"It's amazing. It's a blessing. It's exciting," says Randi about son Patrick's fourth Super Bowl appearance. "You'd think seven years later it wouldn't be surreal, but it's surreal still."

ED McCAFFREY

"He's prepared his whole life to play this game," says the former wide receiver of son Christian. "I'm so happy for him. This is what he always wanted to do, and I'm proud."

DONNA KELCE

"It's an awesome feeling," says Donna about her son Travis's back-to-back Super Bowls. "It's so difficult to be able to get there two times in a row, this was very special."

The Celeb Fans

49ers ← → Chiefs

MATT BOMER
A longtime fan, the actor attends at least one game with his oldest son each season.

JEREMY RENNER
"I'm over the moon" about the 49ers making the Super Bowl says the star.

ANDY SAMBERG
Born in Berkeley, Calif., the lifelong fan has a 49ers jersey with his name on it.

JASON SUDEIKIS
Raised in Johnson County, Kans., Sudeikis "pops in for a game here or there," Kelce told *People*.

ROB RIGGLE
A self-proclaimed "die-hard" fan, the actor has had Kelce on his podcast *Riggle's Picks*.

HEIDI GARDNER
The Kansas City native and *SNL* cast member has a life-size pillow of Kelce.

PAUL RUDD
The superfan narrated the doc *America's Game: 2022 Kansas City Chiefs*.

LEFT PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COOPER NEILL/GETTY IMAGES; PERRY KNOTTS/GETTY IMAGES(2); THEARON W. HENDERSON/GETTY IMAGES; (TROPHY) ANTHONY BEHAR/PA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES; CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES; MARK J. TERRILL/AP; KARA DURRETTE/GETTY IMAGES; JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES; TAYLOR HILL/GETTY IMAGES; JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID EULITT/GETTY IMAGES; JASON HANNA/GETTY IMAGES; DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES; JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES; BRIAN ROTHMULLER/ICON SPORTSWIRE/GETTY IMAGES; TAYLOR HILL/FILMMAGIC; KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; MATTHEW WILLIAMS/SHUTTERSTOCK; PAUL SPINELLI/AP; MIKAYLA SCHMIDT/KANSAS CITY CHIEFS/AP

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People × People EN ESPAÑOL

Romantic Lead
"We both see the world from a different perspective," Leguizamo says of Maurer (inset, in July 2023). "I found my kindred spirit."

JOHN LEGUIZAMO'S 30-YEAR LOVE STORY

'MY WIFE HAS ALWAYS HAD MY BACK'

WHEN THE EMMY-WINNING ACTOR MET HIS FUTURE WIFE JUSTINE MAURER, IT WAS FRIENDSHIP AT FIRST SIGHT. THEN CAME THE REALLY GOOD STUFF

By **JASON SHEELER**

GABRIELA BHASKAR/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; INSET: SONIA MOSKOWITZ/GETTY IMAGES

John Leguizamo's wife, Justine Maurer, remembers the moment she met the man who would become her husband. He does too. "I was shooting *Carlito's Way*," he says, recalling his time on the 1993 crime drama starring Al Pacino.

"I was a costumer on the movie," Maurer, 54, says. They met on a Manhattan corner outside a wardrobe fitting. She was already a fan of his, having seen his critically acclaimed, politically pointed one-man shows like 1991's *Mambo Mouth*. "In the early '90s in New York you couldn't go anywhere that somebody didn't ask, 'Have you seen it? Who is this guy?' It was so explosive," she says. Maurer had, she admits, a bit of a crush. "I thought he was cute. I asked the designers if I could be at his fitting, even though I didn't need to be there." It was a beautiful sunny day, they both agree, and John walked up with his dog.

"Luigi," says Leguizamo, 63. "I'd just done *Super Mario Brothers*. I named the dog after my character. Justine was stunning. She was an angel. So beautiful, so sexy, just captivating."

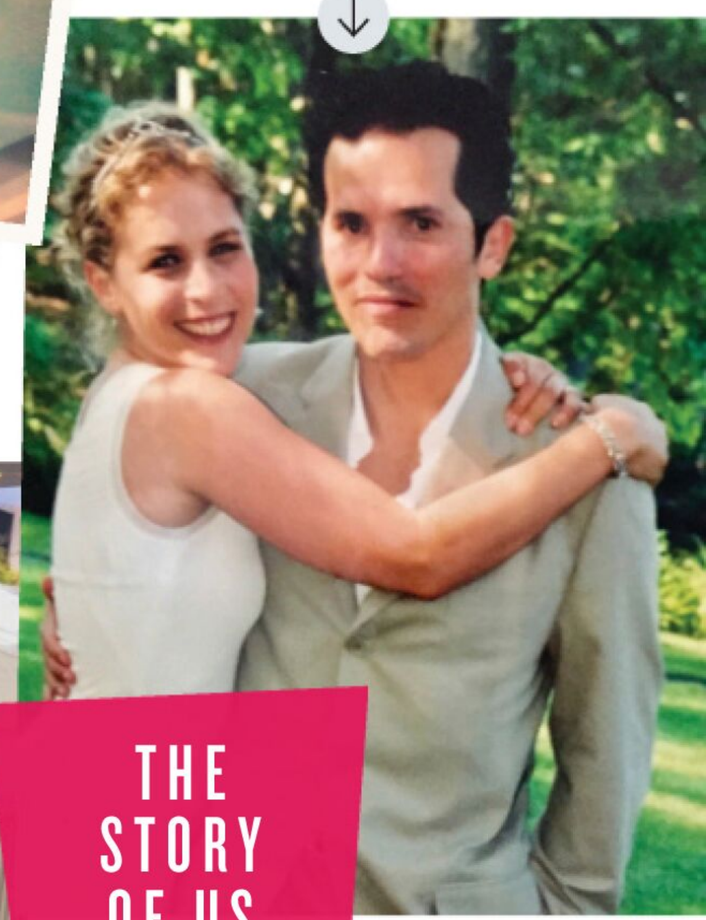
So the fitting happened and then, well, not much else. At the time Leguizamo was in a relationship with actress Yelba Osorio. (The two married in 1994 and divorced in 1996.) "I think Justine and I were at very different points in our lives," he says. "We were able to develop a friendship until the timing was right."

"It was phone calls," says Maurer. "We would call each other every few months and check in and have these amazing long conversations."

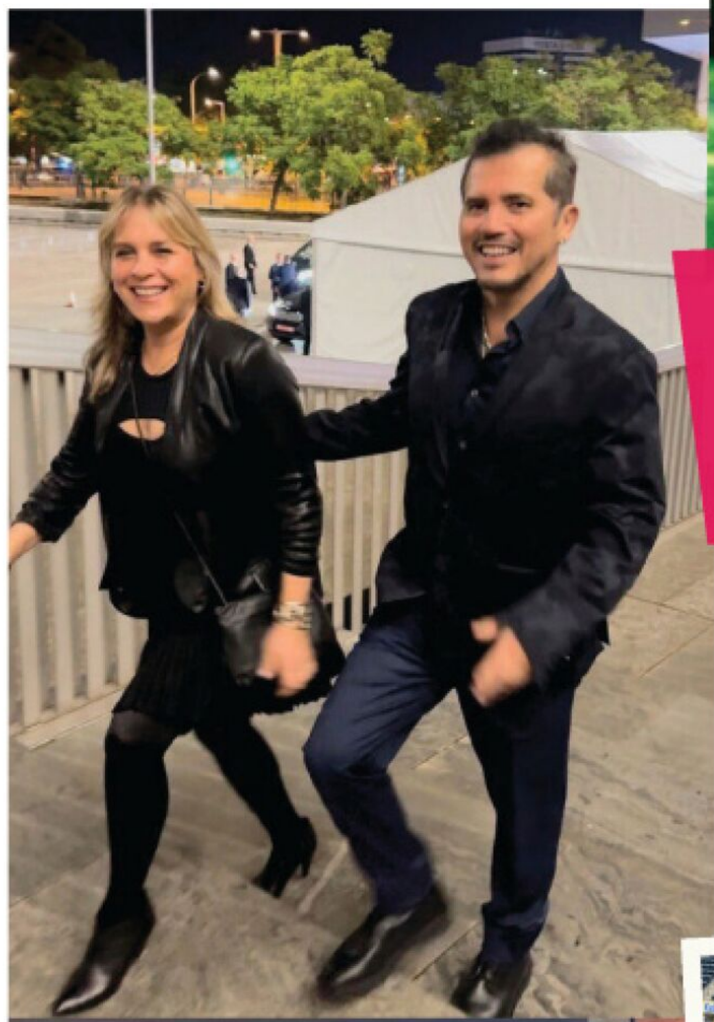
One day in 1996 Maurer's phone rang again. She remembers him saying, "I'm in the city. Do you want to come by?" The next day, the two took a long Sunday-afternoon walk. "And that was when it became evident there's something romantic

Memory Lane
The pair met in the early '90s and were friends at first. "We hit it off immediately," he remembers.

Wedding Day
"Our kids love that they were in our wedding," says Maurer (with Leguizamo in 2003). "They were babies! They don't remember."



THE STORY OF US



Date Night
"People come up to John and say, 'Thank you for speaking for our community,'" says Maurer (with Leguizamo at the Latin Grammy Awards in November).

Perfect Match
Leguizamo and Maurer at the U.S. Open in New York City last year.

Travel Partners
"We celebrate our love all year long," says Leguizamo (with Maurer on a European tour last year).

Meet the Leguizamos
"Our kids want to make the world a better place," Leguizamo says of Lucas and Allegra (at the 2018 Tonys).

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: AMY SUSSMAN/WWD/PENSKE MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY JOHN LEGUIZAMO & JUSTINE MAURER(5)

new

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BODY WASH

‘We love our friendship most. Everything was built on that’
—JOHN LEGUIZAMO

here,” she says. Leguizamo admits he had been thinking about her: “I said, ‘Let’s make this something.’ And we moved in right away.”

They first lived in a bungalow at the Chateau Marmont hotel in Los Angeles for six months. “Drew Barrymore was on one side of us, and Keanu Reeves was on the other,” recalls Leguizamo. “I had learned a lot. I did not want a tumultuous relationship. I wanted peace. I wanted to have an oasis. And Justine gave me all of that.” They had their fun, certainly. “She loved hip-hop,” he says. “We’d go to clubs. Hip-hop is part of my life. She came with me to places where they checked her mouth for razor blades! She’s this White girl from the Upper West Side!” (“That was a new experience for me,” Maurer says with a laugh.)

“She became a healing force in my life,” continues Leguizamo, who wed Maurer in June 2003 following the birth of their daughter Allegra in 1999 and son Lucas in 2000. There, of course, have been differences. “We’re both from New York, but I went to public schools; she went to private schools,” he says. “All my friends were Latin and Black, and all her friends were White and Jewish. But that’s what made it exciting and thrilling. It wasn’t just preaching to the choir; it was converting somebody in a way. I like talking about my culture to Justine because it helps me understand where I came from and how far I’ve come.”

These days Leguizamo and Maurer live in Manhattan, where he’s still performing regularly and she sits on boards focusing on city preservation. Allegra, now 24, has followed in her father’s footsteps as an actress and director, while Lucas, now 23, works in finance. Together with their children, they still celebrate their blended worldview. “I never went to a seder in my life until Justine and I had kids. It was so beautiful,” says Leguizamo. “So we did seders and then Easter. We would do Christmas and Hanukkah. I think it gave them a strong sense of connection to where they come from. You start to see that when you have diversity and a mixed marriage, your wealth is doubled. Our kids felt that—and now live that.”

Up Next
“I brought my whole family to see it, and we could not stop crying,” Leguizamo (with Barbie Ferreira) says of *Bob Trevino Likes It*, a film about mistaken identity on Facebook.

FROM TOP: JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC; JOHN ROSARIO/CHOSEN FAMILY, LLC

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Five more time-tested relationships we can't get enough of

1

America Ferrera & Ryan Piers Williams

The *Barbie* actress, 39, called her writer-director husband, 42—who appeared in the hit film—"my favorite and forever Ken."

2

Gloria & Emilio Estefan

"We had chemistry for sure," Gloria, 66, told *People* in 2017 of early days making music with Emilio, 70. The two have been married 45 years.

3

Penélope Cruz & Javier Bardem

The *Dune* actor, 54, explained to *People* in 2017 the private nature of his 13-year union to the *Ferrari* actress, 49: "The life you have built with your family is the most valuable thing."

4

Benjamin Bratt & Talisa Soto

"The secret is we just dig each other," Bratt, 60, told *Today* of his 21-year marriage to the former actress and model, 56. "She reminds me every day how lucky I am."

5

Marivi Lorido & Andy Garcia

"I proposed to my wife the first night we met," the actor, 67, revealed to *People* in 2022. "It was the cliché thunderbolt moment." ●

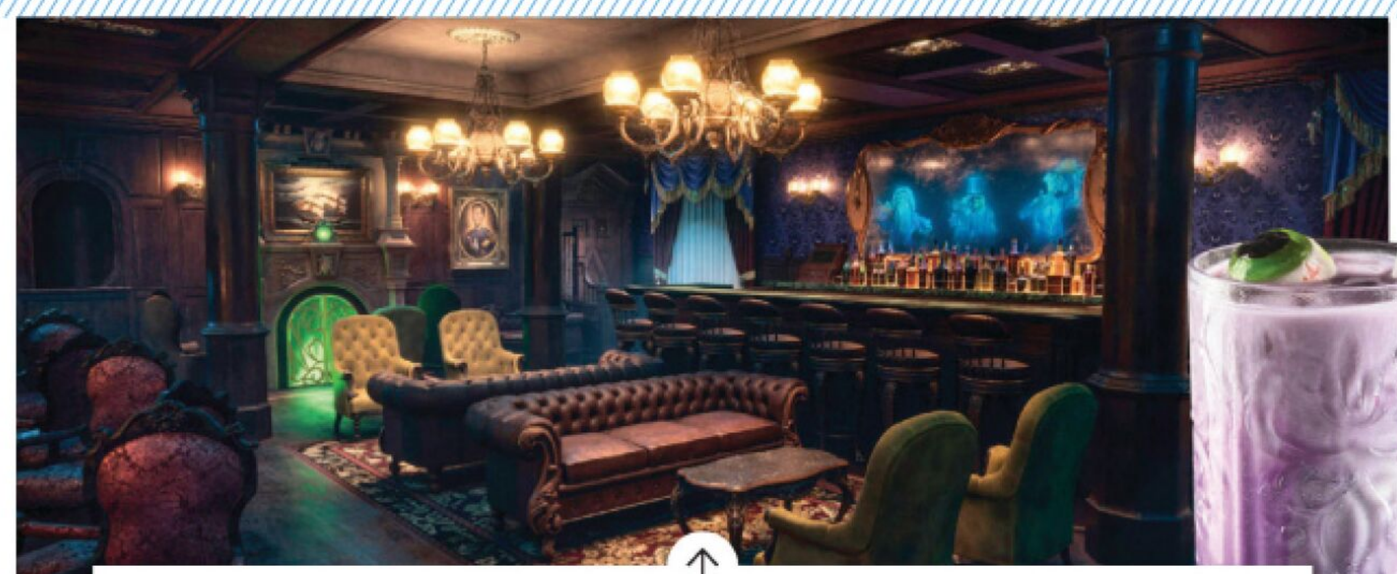
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MICHAEL BUCKNER/GOLDEN GLOBES 2024/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES; JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC; AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMMAGIC; KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Where to Cruise in 2024

WITH LUXE POOLS, TOP-CLASS CUISINE AND EXCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES, THESE NEW SHIPS PROVE THE JOURNEY IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION *By* **SONAL DUTT**

World's Largest Cruise Ship

Able to carry up to 7,600 passengers, **Royal Caribbean's *Icon of the Seas*** made its maiden voyage from Miami in January. The floating city features 20 decks, seven pools (including the biggest water park at sea), 40 restaurants, bars and nightclubs, and a lush park filled with live plants.



Disney-Themed Lounges

On the **Disney *Treasure***, which sets sail in late 2024, cocktails will come with a side of park nostalgia. Three new bars are inspired by popular rides and attractions, like the Haunted Mansion Parlor (above), a Jungle Cruise-themed lounge and a *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* pub.

Seaside Pool

On most ships, pools are located in the middle of the deck and circled by lounge chairs. On **Silversea's *Silver Nova,*** the new horseshoe-shaped, outward-facing design gives swimmers and sunbathers unobstructed views of the ocean.

Can't-Miss Sailings

Choose your own adventure, from stateside getaways to jaunts around the world

Virgin Voyages

Aboard the *Resilient Lady* (left), you'll snake along the coasts of New Zealand and Australia, gliding by sunny shores and through stunning fjords.

Regent Seven Seas

Watch New England burst into color. In the fall the new *Grandeur* ship will head to prime leaf-peeping destinations along the scenic route from Boston to Montreal.

New International Ports

Explore the world by sea! Itineraries on the **Oceania *Riviera*** range from a 12-day voyage with ports in China (Shanghai, below), South Korea and Japan to an epic 59-day vacation with stops in South Africa, Madagascar and the Maldives.

Thrill Rides

Feel the need for speed? On the **Norwegian *Viva,*** race around the three-story, outdoor go-kart track with 14 fast turns, or plummet down the 10-story, free-fall dry slide appropriately named the Drop.

Cruise ships often name an honorary godparent to bring a new vessel good luck. Star godparents include Whoopi Goldberg, Simone Biles and, most recently, Lionel Messi for *Icon of the Seas*.

Cunard

In May the *Queen Anne* luxury liner will make its maiden voyage from England to Portugal's Lisbon and Spain's La Coruña, with future sailings to more European cities.

Celebrity

On a five-night trip on the *Summit*—with ports in Nassau, Bahamas, and Cozumel, Mexico—expect relaxing beach days and plenty of duty-free shopping.

Holland America

There will be no shortage of views on the *Voyage of the Vikings* round-trip sailings from Boston to Nova Scotia, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland and Scandinavia.

Dining on the High Seas

Chefs are reinventing cruise cuisine

1. Nobuyuki "Nobu" Matsuhisa showcases his sushi mastery at Umi Uma on Crystal Cruises. **2. Jacques Pépin** is executive culinary director for Oceania Cruises. **3. Maneet Chauhan** and other Food Network stars headline Norwegian's "Chefs Making Waves" in March. **4. Guy Fieri**'s Guy's Burger Joint sits poolside on Carnival. **5. Jamie Oliver** serves Italian dishes on Royal Caribbean. **6. Masaharu Morimoto** is Holland America's first Fresh Fish Ambassador.

(CRUISES) CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: IVANA IVANOVIC/PIXSELL/ALAMY; DISNEY; MARIAH WILD; ROYAL CARIBBEAN(2); ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES; NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE; NOAM GALAI/GETTY IMAGES; SILVERSEA; (CHEFS) CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RIVER CALLAWAY/PENSKE MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES; YEHYUN KIM/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES; JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES; ROY ROCHLIN/GETTY IMAGES; ROCKET WEIJERS/GETTY IMAGES; WEISS EUBANKS/NBCUNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES

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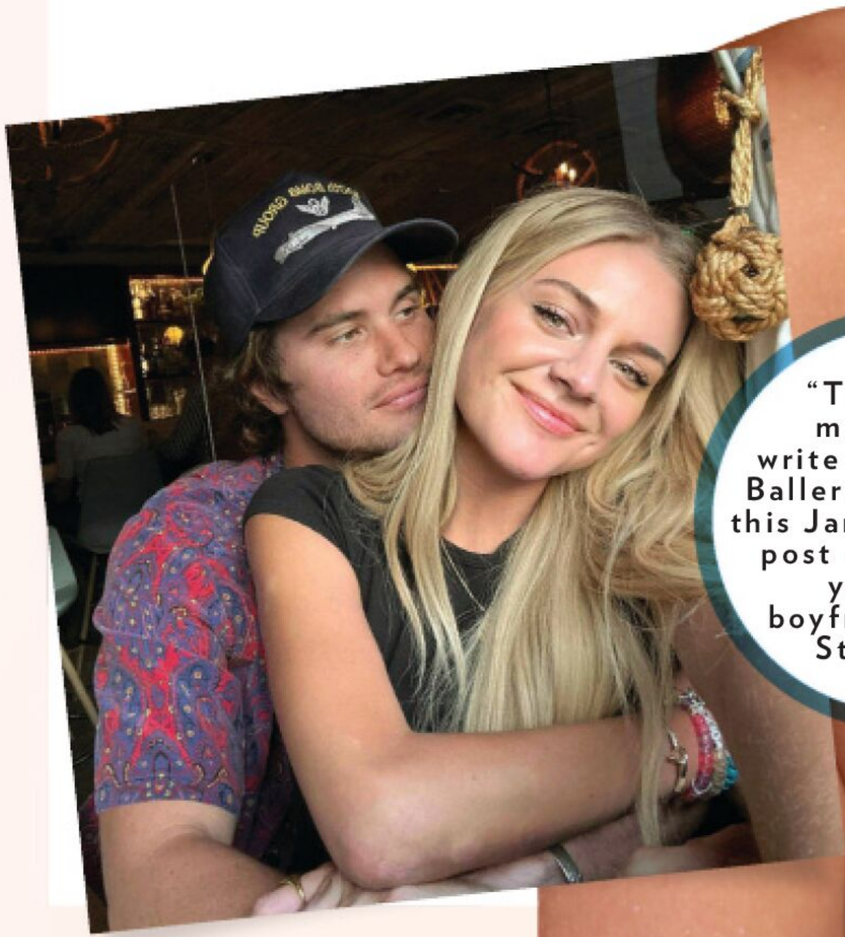
Kelsea's Comfort Zone

FROM DAILY WALKS TO HAIR TREATMENTS, THE COUNTRY STAR SHARES WHAT GETS HER IN A GOOD GROOVE

Kelsea Ballerini loves the glam (and glitter) that comes with being onstage. But when she's off duty, the award-winning singer-songwriter and Pantene's new Healthy Hair Ambassador, 30, is all about comfort. "I'm most creative when I'm not thinking about anything other than the story I'm trying to tell. So you'll catch me in sweats, my hair slicked back with a deep conditioner," she says. She's also working toward feeling "good and confident as is," she says. "I'm growing and focusing more inward." Ballerini—who just celebrated a year with her boyfriend, actor Chase Stokes, after finalizing her divorce from singer Morgan Evans—calls the last 18 months her "healing era" and says she's been "taking care of myself in every way," including therapy and working out.

For her, living authentically is a must. "I was so impressionable when I was a kid," she says. "I think about a 12-year-old who is following me now, and I don't want to have a dishonest relationship with that person whether I'm songwriting about my life or sharing what I stand for."



"Thanks for making me write love songs," Ballerini captioned this Jan. 7 Instagram post marking one year with boyfriend Chase Stokes, 31.

7 Products She Can't Live Without!

1

Le Labo Thé Noir 29

"I've been in love with fragrance forever. I'm always trying out new scents. I have a different one every album cycle. Right now this is my go-to."

$99; lelabofragrances.com

2

Aquaphor Healing Ointment

"It's just a good thing to always have with you: It's accessible, affordable and easy."

$9 for 3.5 oz; target.com

3

Pink Moon Rose Quartz Gua Sha

"Using it before a big event makes such a difference. I just feel all the tension in my jaw and any puffiness disappear."

$38; pinkmoon.co

4

Skin Pharm Eye Patches

"I travel with these reusable eye patches. You put your serums on, and then you put them on top. They're lovely."

$25; skinpharm.com

This lightweight wrap helps prevent damage.

5

Turbie Twist Microfiber Hair Towel

"My favorite time of the day is when you get out of the shower, put your towels on, get in the bed—even if you have to be somewhere—and give yourself five minutes."

$40 (for four); turbietwist.com

6

CoverGirl Exhibitionist Liquid Glitter Shadow Kelsea Ballerini Collection

"Music's my baby, but beauty is something I am really passionate about. I had the pleasure of doing a collab with CoverGirl [Ballerini is a face of the brand] and making glitter eye shadows. I love a glitter moment morning, noon and night."

$13; ulta.com

7

Pantene Miracle Rescue Deep Repair Conditioner With Melting Pro-V Pearls

"When you get out of the shower [after using this], you're like, 'Oh yeah, I feel better about my entire life.'"

$16; walgreens.com

(BALLERINI) KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

By JACKIE FIELDS

JULIUS ROBERTS

Rigatoni With Spinach-Kale Sauce & Ricotta

'In the midst of winter when things get rather bleak and gray, I find myself longing for nourishing hits of green,' says the British chef and author of the *Farm Table* cookbook. 'Food doesn't have to be fancy to be good. With flavorful ingredients like these, it's best to just keep it simple and let them shine'

- **1 large (7 oz.) bunch lacinato kale, stemmed (about 5 cups)**
- **3½ cups (about 3½ oz.) packed fresh baby spinach**
- **2 large garlic cloves, peeled**
- **16 oz. uncooked rigatoni pasta**
- **¼ cup olive oil, plus more for serving**
- **2 tsp. grated lemon zest (from 1 large lemon), plus fresh juice for serving**
- **½ tsp. kosher salt**
- **¾ cup ricotta cheese**
- **Parmesan or pecorino Romano cheese, grated (optional)**

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high. Add kale, and return to a boil; cook, stirring occasionally until kale is bright green and softened, about 5 minutes. Add spinach and garlic cloves; cook until spinach has darkened and wilted, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Using a large slotted spoon, transfer greens and garlic to a colander and run under cold water until completely cool. Squeeze gently to remove excess liquid.

2. Return pot of cooking water to a boil over high; add pasta, and cook according to package directions. Drain, reserving 1 cup cooking water, and return pasta to pot.

3. While pasta cooks, process greens and garlic, olive oil, lemon zest and salt in a blender until smooth and bright green, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to pot with pasta and stir to coat. Heat over low, and gradually add ½ cup of the reserved cooking water, stirring constantly, until evenly coated, adding more cooking water as needed to reach desired consistency.

4. Divide pasta among serving bowls; top each with ricotta. Sprinkle with grated Parmesan. Serve immediately with a squeeze of lemon and drizzle of olive oil.

Serves: 6 **Active time:** 30 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes

quick tip!
If you make extra sauce, "stir it into cooked beans or loosen it with a little chicken broth to make a soup. Serve it with a poached egg and buttery bread," says Roberts.

For more celebrity recipes, visit **PEOPLE.COM/FOOD**

Photographs by JENNIFER CAUSEY

FOOD STYLIST: JULIAN HENSARLING; PROP STYLIST: CHRISTINA DALEY; INSET: ANNABELLE DAUGHTRY

CHING-HE HUANG

Chicken & Sweet Corn Soup With Wonton Noodles

'The wonton wrappers are like a comforting pasta, which makes the soup more substantial but still light,' says Huang, who shares this 20-minute meal from her new cookbook *Wok for Less*. 'It's the perfect cold-weather recipe: chunky but super quick and easy to make. It really does tick all the boxes'

- 1 Tbsp. canola or rapeseed oil
- 1 (1-in.) piece fresh ginger, grated
- 10 oz. chicken breast tenders (about 4 tenders), chopped
- 1 tsp. Shaoxing rice wine or dry sherry
- 1 qt. vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 (15.25-oz.) can sweet whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 Tbsp. lower-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tsp. toasted sesame oil
- 1 tsp. chicken bouillon powder
- ⅛ tsp. ground white pepper
- ⅓ cup tap water
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 4 wonton wrappers, cut in half diagonally
- 2 scallions, sliced

1. Heat a wok or large skillet over medium until lightly smoking; add oil, and swirl to coat. Add ginger and stir for just 1 second. Add chicken; stir-fry for 1 minute. Add rice wine, and then stock; bring to a simmer. Stir in corn, soy sauce, sesame oil, bouillon and pepper; bring to a boil over medium high.
2. Whisk together water and cornstarch in a small bowl to make a slurry. Gradually stir slurry into soup, stirring constantly, and cook until thickened, 1 minute.
3. Stir soup constantly in a circular whirlpool motion, and gently drizzle the beaten egg over the swirling soup to form ribbons. Stir in wonton pieces; cook until softened, about 30 seconds. Divide among bowls; top with scallions. Serve immediately.
Serves: 4 **Active time:** 20 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes

New Ways to Use Wanton Wrappers

The thin sheets of dough—made from flour, eggs and water—are for more than just dumplings

Mini Lasagnas

Layer wrappers, sauce, cheese and your favorite toppings in individual ramekins, and bake at 375° until cooked and edges are browned, about 25 minutes.

PB&J Bites

Fill each wrapper with a dollop of peanut butter and jelly. Seal edges shut, and brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar; bake at 375° until crispy, 15 to 20 minutes.

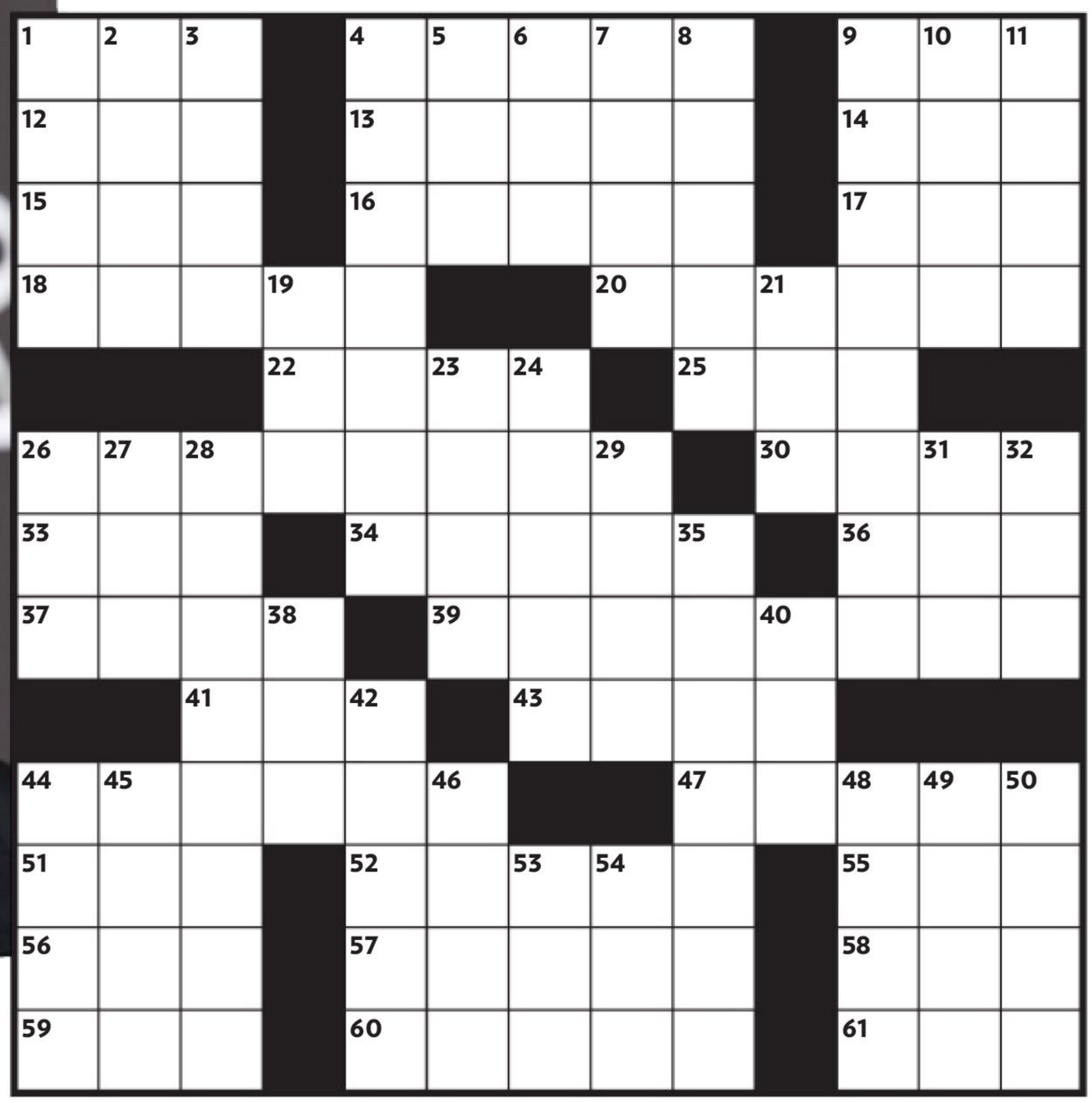
Taco Cups

Brush a muffin pan with melted butter, and fit a wrapper into each cup. Add cooked meat and beans; bake at 375° for 12 minutes. Add your favorite taco toppings.

By SABRINA WEISS and SONAL DUTT

IINSETS, FROM TOP: JAMIE CHO; SOMDUL/SHUTTERSTOCK

Spider-Man



across

1 Lucy of *Kill Bill* or Simu of *Barbie*
4 Joy ___ of *The View*
9 Place for a "me day"
12 Permanent writing fluid
13 Entertain
14 Popeye's spinach holder
15 Consumed
16 *My Cousin Vinny* Oscar winner Marisa ___
17 Extracted material in Minecraft
18 "___ are red, violets are blue"
20 *Hacksaw Ridge* star (cont. at 26 Across)
22 Moon, to a Buenos Aires native
25 *A Perfect Storm* distress call (ltrs.)
26 See 20 Across
30 Rowlands or Lee Nolin
33 Manipulate
34 A bird's sound
36 Title for Richard Branson
37 ___ Hawke (20 Across's *Mainstream* costar)
39 ___ Johansson (actress in *The Other Boleyn Girl* with 20 Across)
41 Pen point
43 Lose one's footing
44 20 Across's *The Other Boleyn Girl* costar Kristin Scott ___
47 Intimidate, with "out"
51 Slithering fish
52 Allowed by law
55 Soccer chant
56 Get ___ of (toss)
57 Pasta topper
58 Female deer
59 Oft-mentioned inits. on April 15
60 Building extension
61 Tack on

down

1 Dishonest person
2 Title word before *the Wild*, *the West* or *the Woods*
3 Luau instruments, for short
4 The Caped Crusader's garb
5 Gloomy rock genre
6 A low, steady sound
7 What the Mediterranean is (2 wds.)
8 Straps held by a jockey
9 Martin ___ (director of *Silence*, starring 20 Across)
10 Trim
11 All over again
19 Will Ferrell's 2003 Christmas movie
21 Scooby-Doo or Snoopy
23 O'Donnell, Holt and Muir deliver it nightly
24 Actors Guinness and Mapa
26 Sugary stick that's chewed
27 Actor Butterfield or politician Hutchinson
28 Actor Ryan ___ (whom 20 Across famously kissed at the 2017 Golden Globes)
29 It follows a shuffle
31 A louse's egg
32 The "A" in MoMA
35 Three-apartment building
38 Goal or objective
40 Vinyl records, briefly
42 Model-making wood
44 Actress ___ Hatcher
45 Next in line
46 ___ Taro Ono Lennon
48 Luke Skywalker's small mentor
49 Lump of clay
50 Listen to
53 *Top ___: Maverick*
54 The highest playing card

Answers to last week's Puzzler

DANIELE VENTURELLI/GETTY IMAGES

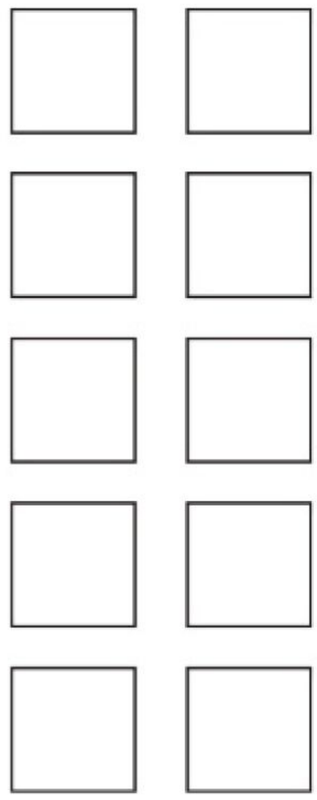
By PATRICK MERRELL

See if you can find the differences in these two pictures

There were more than "kenough" smiles when **Margot Robbie** (left), **Ryan Gosling** (center) and **America Ferrera** attended a special screening of *Barbie* at the Academy Museum in L.A. on Jan. 30. Robbie said she's "beyond ecstatic" about the film's eight Oscar nominations, with Gosling up for Best Supporting Actor and Ferrera for Best Supporting Actress. "We set out to do something that would shift culture," Robbie added.

10

changes to keep score!



1. The pink background behind the actors has been extended. **2.** Margot Robbie's shirt has turned white. **3.** Her pant leg is longer. **4.** Her shoe has turned purple. **5.** Ryan Gosling's microphone has turned blue. **6.** His watch has vanished. **7.** His sock has turned black. **8.** The bottle on the table next to Gosling has vanished. **9.** The leg on America Ferrera's chair has been duplicated. **10.** Her shirt has turned pink.

ERIC CHARBONNEAU/GETTY IMAGES(2)

Calista Flockhart

THE ACTRESS, 59, STARS IN THE NEW FX SERIES *FEUD: CAPOTE VS. THE SWANS*

Last injury
I cut my finger slicing an avocado. It was not fun. It was still gushing blood a day later, so I got talked into going to urgent care, but it was around Christmas, so it was a three-hour wait. I left and never went back.

Last obsession
Finding the perfect pour-over coffee. I use a cup with a porcelain filter and paper filter and 203° water. You bloom the grounds—it's a whole thing. It took me a while to find the right [bean], so I gave the rejects to my husband [Harrison Ford]. He'll drink pretty much anything.

Last thing I do before I go to bed
I snuggle and kiss my three dogs. They all sleep on the bed. As they should. We fostered dogs when my son was little. They're just the best.

Last time I was starstruck
Martin Short. I was out of body, stammering, saying really stupid things. I've adored him from afar, and I'm sort of shy to begin with, so inside I was a hot mess.

Last time I felt like a kid
We built and decorated a gingerbread house. It's still sitting on a side table. I'm pretty positive somebody was eating the candy off of it, but I'm not going to name any names.

Reporting by **JULIE JORDAN**

JESSICA PONS

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